

"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

NEW RATE 18 2½s 0d. UP SEVENPENCE.

A rate for Basildon U.D.

Council of 2½s 0d, an increase of 7d, was passed by a majority at a special Council Meeting on Tuesday March 10th.

The total rates collected for 1958/9 were £606,796. The total rates to be collected during 1959/60 will be £806,093, an increase of nearly £200,000.

The sewerage estimates for 1959/60 have gone up by £20,000 on 1958/9. Highways up £14,727. Public Lighting £5,840 and Salaries £12,300.

Counc Tanswell, Council Chairman said of the new rate; that, everybody would gain with the work that the Council had planned for the district.

Speaking of the increase in salaries he said that it was not alarming, as everybody had had wage increases.

Every committee had been a substantial increase within itself, stated Councillor Tanswell. The make up of private streets will be the major work of the Council, during the next few years stated Counc Tanswell.

Councillor Tanswell said that he hope the district would continue to back the work the Council were doing in their name.

CAMERA CLUB'S FIRST EXHIBITION.

The Billericay Camera Club held their first exhibition in the County Library on Saturday 14th March.

It composed of 64 prints, divided into Beginner's, Intermediate and Advanced Sections.

When the club first started, a year ago, meetings were held in a private house, but as the club gradually grew in numbers it was decided to hold meetings in the Secondary School, every Friday at 8.0 p.m.

" PRINCESS IDA".

The Billericay Amateur Operatic Society presented the comic opera, " Princess Ida " by Gilbert and Sullivan at the Archer Hall, Billericay last week.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

It was decided after much discussion at Billericay C.P.R.E. Annual General Meeting on March 7th to call members under the age of 21 Associate Members.

It was pointed out that in other societies, this term had a different meaning, but despite this, the meeting passed the proposal almost unanimously.

The subject of Associate Committee members was also discussed.

COUNCIL FOR PRESEVATION OF RURAL ENGLAND CONTINUES TO PROGRESS.

"Potent force in the neighbourhood"

The Billericay area group of the C.P.R.E. held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday March 7th, in the Archer Hall annexe.

In his report, the secretary Mr W. Taylor said, "Since the A.G.M. in November last the Committee has held three meetings and has done useful work to maintain the position of the Group as a potent force in the area.

The report continued, "The list of members shows many new names, and the interest and support of every new member is valued."

Mr Taylor went on to say, "When I became Secretary in November, I knew that on top of my already busy life, I had accepted a position of vital importance in the district, the responsibilities of which must be taken seriously, often perhaps with a sense of urgency in order to make our voice heard in the right place at the right time. The main work falls on the Secretary, but it is my duty to harness the energies of members, and focus them on the right objects as may be necessary.

Strong Backbone.

Continued Mr Taylor, "I am therefore grateful that the Group has a strong backbone in its sectional sub-committees which enables the interest of members to be employed over a wide range. There is a feeling among members that the sub-committee is the eyes and ears of the Group. The members are the eyes and ears of the Group and at the first whisper of unsightly development or an ancient house being pulled down, they should report it to the Sub-committee dealing with that particular section of the work of the group.

Footpaths.

Mr Taylor said that the Trees and Countryside Sub-Committee had been asked to prepare a programme of weekend and evening walks for members and friends to make records of paths used.

Museum.

Good progress had been made, stated Mr Taylor, mainly due to the generosity of the President Mrs A.M. Cater.

The Group had a strong Museums and Records Sub-Committee and application had been made for membership of the Museums Association.

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Cinema Diary, Ritz, Billericay.

Monday March 18th to Wednesday 18th

The entire action of "KING CREOLE" (A) takes place in New Orleans. The story has the colourful and exciting background of the French quarter. It concerns the struggle of a youth - Danny Fisher - to rise above his environment.

Rockabilly, rock 'n' roll's country cousin will have a large and happy display of its catchy rhythms in "Country Music Holiday" (U).

Thurs March 19th to Sat March 21st.

Max Bygraves and Barbara

Murray in "A cry from the streets", which concerns the streets round the King's Cross station in London, and the area's children. Also "The Golden Age of Comedy", (U).

Sunday March 22nd.

"Please Murder Me" is an unusual suspense drama, and one of the most unusual plots screened. Cert "A". "The Command", (U) is the story of a young doctor who takes over a cavalry troop in Indian territory.

Monday March 23rd to Wed March 25.

"Strictly for Pleasure" (U), stars Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis in a film where a soldier in a lonely Polar base, wins a raffle, for the perfect leave. He chooses three weeks in Paris in Paris with an Argentinian movie star and complications follow.

"Last of the Fast Guns", tells the story of a gunfighter, who has dreams of a ranch of his own. To get a ranch he goes on a perilous trip (U).

Thursday March 26th to Saturday 28th. Open Good Friday.

"Sea of Sand" (U) stars John Gregson and Richard Attenborough in a really first-class film, the "film of the fortnight". It tells the story of the Long Range Desert Group. A mines expert, Capt. Williams is posted to Y group, commanded by Capt. Tim Cotton. Capt. Williams, a punctilious Regular, he is offended by the casual bearing and unorthodox dress of the unit. Cotton and Williams don't see eye to eye. The raid is carried out, but there are many troubles and loss of life before 'Y' Patrol return to base. Also "The Bank Raiders" (U).

Sunday March 29th.

Cinemascope goes to the circus ring in "Ring of Fear" (A), a story about a homicidal maniac who joins a circus, against which he harbours a grievance. Also "Jump Into Hell" (A).

Easter Monday to April 1st.

"Me and the Colonel" (U). Danny Kaye, Kaye Jurgens star in this film. Here is comedy for the bank holiday mood. The action takes place when the

ROUND AND ABOUT by
"WANDERER".

With "Longsight" on one of his tours in the Midlands I am temporarily saved from the sack.

The new rate, as you have no doubt read is 21s 0d. If the power that be use it in a proper way I can have little objection. I am not too happy about a little item in the Finance & Establishment Committee meeting on March 3rd. The gist of it is "to delete from the estimates of the Council, a new landing stage in Lake Meadows. We all have seen the lines of thirty or more waiting for boats in Lake Meadows in the summer. One day I fear we shall read that when a fat person steps on the ancient relic it will collapse or somebody unties the string that holds the boards together.

Seriously, though the B.U.D.C. could devote more money on Lake Meadows and parks in general. The major thing is the car parking facilities, for thousands more visit Lake Meadows every year. Also more winter staff, for we do not want a repetition of the incident in Lake Avenues recently (last edition) and the resulting chaos in Stock Road. I do think that a patrol dog and handler is another necessary item.

Billericay is gradually being catered for even more in sport. Although Billericay's leading team is our successful hockey club, cricket is very well catered for, so is boating and fishing, rugby football will shortly be catered for, and Tennis has always been well-supported.

If only I could say this for football! Billericay has one main team and several smaller ones. What a boost it would be if they amalgamated! If Billericay had a good team it would help trade. However, I feel the present ground of Billericay Town is not at all adequate. A pavillion should not be built there, but a new site should be found, say a field and could soon be made into a good pitch. Then a pavillion - and who knows?

A golf course has also been suggested by the local C.P.R.E. and this again would assist trade and preserve an open tract of countryside.

I understand the Archer Hall is to be hired by Essex Education Committee for use as additional classrooms. With children who

THE STORY OF BILLERICAY.
CHAPTER 14.

by Hs/Rl.

Did you find the answer to the question in the last article?

Ynge Gyngiang Jayberd, sometimes called Ing Ging Jayberd Laundry, was the name formerly attached to the ancient Manor of Blunts, now Great and Little Blunts Farms.

It was very well known to John Heywood author of the Play 'Wether', for his brother lived in a house on the site of Buttsbury Lodge Farm in Stock Road, which was then known as 'Slow' or 'Slough House'.

The old name of Blunts refers to the two Norman families of Joliberd, and Landri, who held the manor long before the Blunts came on the scene. As we mentioned in an earlier chapter the property was lost by this family when Robert de Blunt took part in the Simon de Montford revolt in the reign of Henry III, but they continued to occupy the place, evidently as tenants, for some years afterwards, when the Ferrers were the owners. In 1593 the owner was Paul Bayning, Sheriff of London, and it was probably in his time that the present house of Great Blunts was built. His son, also named Paul, became, in 1627, Lord Banning of Horkesley, and soon afterwards Viscount Banning of Sudbury. He died in 1629 and it was he who disafforested the 200 acres, making it more as we know it today.

In 1745 the place was purchased by Lady Comyns, widow of Sir John Comyns who also owned Burghstead Lodge - now the Billericay Civil Defence Headquarters.

During the latter part of the last century, a long spell of several years bad weather brought a crisis to the Essex farmers, many of whom finally gave up the struggle altogether. There were more farms vacant than ever before, and it was not at all easy to find tenants for them. Lord Petre, the great landowner in this part of the county, was one of the first to advertise in the Scottish papers that Essex Farms were available at low rents and then began the Scottish 'Invasion' of these parts.

In 1886, Mr. Ronald Nisbet and his family travelled in a special train from Edinburgh to Ingatestone, bringing with him Cattle, horses and farming equipment. From Ingatestone this complete farm was transported by road to Great Blunts Farm.

Robert Nisbet's son John took over the farm at the age of 18, when his father died, and is still there, a well known figure in Billericay, and one of the oldest Scots farmers in Essex.

Great Blunts farmhouse is built of lathe and plaster like most of the older houses in the county, and dates from the late 15th. or early 17th. century. It is of one main block, with wings towards the fields at the back, and later additions. The three original chimney stacks have, respectively, three diagonal, three octagonal, and four square shafts.

Little Blunts was a small weatherboarded building dating from about the 17th. century, but was rebuilt about the end of the 19th. century.

COMMENT.

Recently there have been efforts by the Government to purchase houses. Many restrictions have been lifted. But there is one tax that is unjust, unfair and if it was removed would be much more help to house buyers than "no deposit" schemes.

The tax? Schedule 'A'.

When you buy a house you have to pay a tax on the value of the house, as if you were renting it.

This tax should be ended at once. Public Opinion is rapidly growing against it, and let us hope that some result will come of this.

Believe me, many people would prefer the abolition of Schedule 'A' as a budget bonus to a cut in purchase tax on some luxury which a house is not. Which brings me on to the second point - the decision of Croydon Council to increase Council house rates or evict those earning

COMMENT.

more than £20 a week. We applaud the decision of Croydon Council and suggest that Basildon Council follow their example. Why should people who often earn less subsidise the rents of those earning more than themselves? Council Houses were originally intended for the poor which, very few object to subsidising.

When asked why they do not buy a house £20 plus Council tenants at Croydon say they could not afford it. "Two children, £3 a week for clothing, T.V.H.P, the car, you know. Most people buying houses earn about £8 less. How do they do it? They don't go in for a car, they don't buy a goggle-box and as for clothes they manage on an allowance of about £1 a month.

Tenants who do not fill in income forms should be evicted without question - for the needy.

I cannot reveal the leading article in the competition, yet, as the competition is still open, there was a double reason behind the "new article" question. For, shortly we plan to extend the "Observer" to six pages, at no extra cost to our readers. The money to finance the extra page will come from trade and other adverts. Already we have our first advert for trade, and we have sent several letters to various local traders. We are sure an extra page, will be a step, welcomed by all our readers.

W. Grant (EDITOR).
EGGS, POULTRY & DOGS.

Eggs 4/- to 5/- delivery Sat and Sun. Poultry Young tender birds make an excellent meal. Poussin @ 1/- 2 1/2 lbs only 4/6 to 5/6, already for the oven. Delivered within 3 days of ordering, other sizes 5 to 6 days price according to size. Puppies Puppies of any description and age, all breeds, including best pedigrees, also other dogs. Ring Billericay 800 from 9 - 5.30. After 5.30 Bill 767, ask for R. Norman

FOR THE GARDENER.

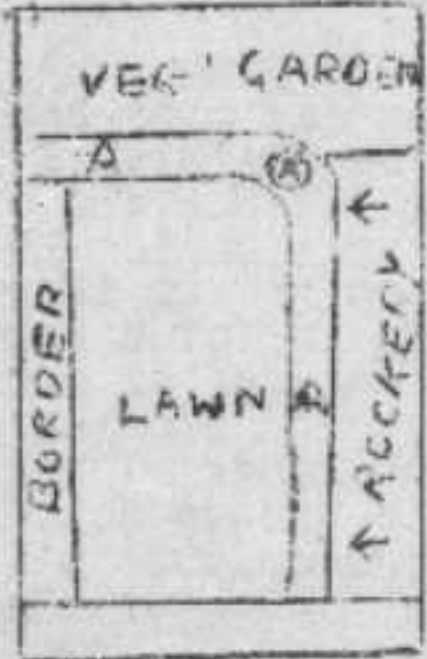
Garden Planning - 3. Having dealt with the front garden and lawns, we can now focus our attention on the back garden. In most modern houses in the area it is of rectangular shape. However, this seemingly exciting plot of land can be made into a very attractive garden.

The first step is to clear it, dig over and, it would not be a bad idea to manure it. In some cases it is advisable to level the ground.

Now to plan. The main thing to remember is to be different from other people. In the next few editions I will deal with a few plans for gardens, but many more can be found in gardening and home magazines.

It is a good idea to "lead up" to some object in a garden, for example a pond.

The first plan is for a sloping site. I hope it comes out in the print. If it does not - sorry.



"Observer" plan I for a sloping site. Arrows indicate slope. A - is crazy paving path. Line between rockery and veg' garden is conifers, for winter greenery. FORTH AT BACK OF HOUSE

Buy your wools at NEWMAN'S 103, High St, Billericay. Mr. Woolworths, down turning side of County Cleaners. Wools Reserved Six Weeks. Range from 1/- per oz. KNITTING MACHINE SPECIALISTS Knitmaster, Passap, Orion, Girotex. Easy terms, free tuition.

C.P.R.E. MEETING - Continued. Mr Taylor stated that the revision of the High Street booklets was proceeding well.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that the balance of the group was £86 6s 11d.

Mr. Amos, Vice-President of the Society gave an interesting talk on the Story of Billericay, from the Ancient Britons to Estate Development in the past few years.

The present officials were re-elected en bloc.

It was found that the Committee, under the new rules would have to be reduced by one. Two members expressed their wish, to leave the Committee for domestic reasons. Six members were elected who were not present at the meeting and were elected "subject to their consent". In the resulting vote Mr R.A. Moss defeated Mr W.P. Grant by a majority, and he was elected to the committee.

SOUND AND VISION. David Attenborough makes a welcome return to B.B.C.T.V. on Friday at 9.0., in a new series of "Zoo Quest", this time the questing being done in Paraguay.

A quiz with a new flavour is "Get Ahead" on Tuesday, 8.0. "Get Ahead" features people who get out of a rut.

For Rugby Football fans the B.B.C.'s 'Grandstand' presents the international between England and Scotland from Twickenham on next Saturday.

SOUND. Music light - Fifth B.B.C. festival of Dance Music 8.0 - 8.30, 9.0 - 10.0. Saturday, Light.

Music serious - Friday, home, Halst's "The Planets", the Halle Orchestra, conductor Sir John Barbirolli.

Play - "The Rival of His Master", Sunday, Third at 5.0. Trumpeter Sound, Saturday, Home, 9.15. Monday, Home, the Drunken Sailor.

STOP PRESS NEWS.