"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay."

COUNCIL FOR PRESERVATION 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 H. 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 encompassed 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 unlight development of an old 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.

Footpaths.

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

Continued Page 4.
ROUNDER 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 3½ Od. 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 lending 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 under 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 re-pit of the incident in Lake Avens recently (last edition) and the resulting chaos in Smock 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 pavilion 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 pavilion - 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 an additional classroom. With children who...
THE STORY OF BILLERICAY
CHAPTER 14.
by Mrs Ri.

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

Mrs Gungiang Jayberd, sometimes called '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 Herwood author of the Plays 'Nether', for his brother lived in a house on the site of Buttsbury Lodge Farm in Stock Road, which was then known as 'Slowe' or 'Sloough House'.

The old name of Blunts refers to the two Norman families of Joliberd, and Lambi, who held the manor long before the Blunts came into 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 Montfort 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 1393 the owner was Paul Barning, 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 1687, Lord Barning of Horkesley, and soon afterwards Viscount Barning of Sudbury. He died in 1629 and it is 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 Burghheaton Lodge, now 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 Scott farmers in Essex.

Great Blunts farmhouse is built of Isthe 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 turning against it, and let us hope that some back 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 more than £20 a week. We applaud the decision of Croydon Council to support their example. Why should people who often earn less subsidise the rents of those earning more than theirselves? Council houses were originally intended for the poor which very few subject 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. 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 advertisers. 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: 4/- to 5/- delivery Sat. and Sun. Pultry Young tender birds, make an excellent meal. Poussins @ 15/- 2lbs 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 older dogs.

Bing Billericay 800 from 9 - 5.30. After 5.30 Bill '78.' 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.

STOP PRESS NEWS.