

"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay."

HELPERS ARE NON-EXISTENT IN THE BILLERICAY AREA FOR OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE.

"Helpers are non-existent in Billericay for old people's welfare work", said Mrs. J.M. Birkett reporting on the Billericay Sub-Committee at a meeting of the Basildon Urban District Old People's Welfare Committee, Finance and General Purposes Committee in the Council Chambers, Billericay on Wednesday 18th March. She continued to say that the work being done in Billericay was limited, and outside the W.V.S. work on the Kennel Lane Estate, was being done by herself. Mrs Birkett said that on the other hand it was difficult to know if there was a great deal of need in the Billericay district.

#### £200 Grant

It was reported that the Chairman (Mr V.G. Birkett) had considered the growing responsibilities of the Committee with the increase of the work they were doing. He had, therefore, approached the Basildon U.D.C. and they had been able to make the grant he had requested, £200 from April 1959, to March, 1960.

#### Carnival Proceeds Share

As a result of an article in the "Southend Standard", the Chairman had communicated with the Basildon Carnival Association, and they had agreed to give a quarter share of the profits on the 1959 Carnival to the Committee. They had also asked for help on ideas on the Carnival.

#### BOY RESCUES HIS BROTHER FROM LAKE.

8-year old Nicholas Thompson of Mount Edge Gardens, Billericay was standing near the edge of the lake in Lake Meadows, with his friend when he heard a splash and saw his 2-year old brother, Andrew, floating away from him.

He dived in and rescued his brother, who was wet but uninjured.

Andrew had been playing with his boats and leaned over too far and fell in the water.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

PARISH CHURCH HAVE "OPEN DAY" TO AROUSE PUBLIC INTEREST IN EXPANSION PLANS.

Billericay Parish Church had an "open day" in Church House, Billericay on Saturday to arouse public interest in the ambitious expansion plans of the Church.

Mr Amos described the plans for expansion of the Church which was founded as a chantry chapel in the 14th. century to the "Observer". He said that Church House, which is adjacent to the Parish Church, will be used as a curate's flat and the ground floor offices, which will be let out to bring in a small income. Eventually, it is hoped to erect new vesteries on the ground at the back of Church House.

Another £10,002 - 9s - 8d is required before the target of £12,000 is reached.

Displays included a most interesting exhibition of "Old Billericay" interest, by Mr Richman, which included a model of Billericay in 1934. Mr V. Sutton showed his models on the history of the Fire Brigade and there was an exhibition of arts and crafts by Billericay Primary School. There was a road safety display by Brentwood Police and a cake stall under the direction of Miss Shipton. "Can you make home made wine?" demonstrations were given by Mr Jarman.

A loudspeaker car traveled the area publicising the event.

#### ROAD WORKS.

The re-surfacing of Perry Street has now commenced. Also the footpath on the north-west side which residents petitioned for is under construction.

#### LIBERAL CANDIDATES.

Two Liberal candidates will contest seats, in the May local U.D. Council elections.

#### IN AID OF CHURCH.

The comedy play, "For Better for Worse", shortly to be presented by the Billericay Folk Players, from April 16th to 18th at the Anchor Memorial Hall will be in aid of the Parish Church Extension Fund.

FREE SEEDS and Bulbs go to members of the Young Gardeners' Club. Send 2/6 P.O. for membership and details.

YOUNG GARDENERS' CLUB

9 NEWNHAM ROAD, LONDON, N.22.



## CINEMA DIARY.

## KITEZ, BILLERICAY.

Thursday April 2nd. Three days.

Tab Hunter, Gwen Verdon in

"What Lola Wants". (U). Comedy. At 5.15, 8.15. Mat Sat 3.10 L.C.P. 7.5. Support-  
ing Programme.

Sunday April 5th.

The Gun Runner (A) and

Target Zero (A). L.C.P. 7.15.

Monday April 6th. Three days.

Jean Simmons, Dan O'Herilhy

in Home Before Dark (A), also The  
Argonauts (A) L.C.P. 7.15.

Thursday April 9th. Three days.

A six-year old black and

white collie that answers to the name of "King" takes his place in the top rank of Hollywood's animal stars with his focal role in Samuel Goldwyn Jr.'s exciting Technicolor western, "The Proud Rebel" (U) starring Alan Ladd and Oliva de Havilland with Dean Jagger and David Ladd, Alan's young son.

The film is a story about a father-and-son who travel west to find medical help for the boy who has been struck dumb in the Battle of Atlanta during the American Civil War. The boy's dog is played by "King", and in an effort to get money to bring back his boy's speech, the father sells "King". Alan Ladd plays the father and his real-life son, David, plays his son in the "Proud Rebel".

This is King's second big film role and he's further proof that you've got to accomplish something in your own field before Hollywood is interested in you. King is four times international Far Western Champion and has won every field trail and fair event in West America.

Director Curtiz thinks "The Proud Rebel" will make King a new dog star.

The "Daily Sketch" thought very highly of the film, so highly to grant it a special edition which is surely conclusive proof that "The Proud Rebel" is a great film. Also Dean James in "Handle With Care" (U).

Sunday April 12th.

Richard Todd in "The Dam Busters" and Wayne Morris in "The Marksman". (U)

Monday April 13th. Three days.

Alan Ladd, Ernest Borgnine

in "The Badlanders" (A), James Mason in "The Decks Ran Red" (A). 5.30 and 8.45. L.C.P. 7.5.

## FOUND.

A purse on the footpath between Perry St and the Station.

The purse should be claimed at 137, Perry Street, Billericay.

ROUND AND ABOUT by  
"WANDERER".

One wonders just how silly the Eastern National can get. With the new buses they are arriving at points early, as the old schedules are not tight enough.

As a result buses on the route to Chelmsford are waiting a few minutes at Stock. Surely, you would think that the Eastern Nat. would tighten up the schedules but ah no.

It looks as if Perry Street will never get a bus service. The Sunnymede Estate which is at least one-third of the size of Perry St has a bus service. But why not Perry St?

A bus service would be a great help, particularly for the elderly. I am sure a bus service would be very well used by the 1,000 or so people that live in the Perry St area. Stupid E.N!

I really must apologise for the very bad spacing but ye ancient relic which is the "Observer's" typewriter has become very obstinate about spacing, suddenly, for a unknown reason.

It is obvious now that the Police can only discover a limited number of offenders against the Litter Act. So far there have been only a few convictions.

Surely it would be a good idea to appoint a number of people who could enforce this act. We must not let our beautiful countryside of England be spoiled by litter.

When the litter is gone our countryside and streets will be all the more attractive.

Another law that the Police have difficulty in enforcing is the "no cycling" law on local footpaths.

I am not objecting to people cycling on the footpaths, for often the alternative route is very long, but I do object to those who ride at more than 10 m.p.h. Don't get off when they pass pedestrians and do not say "thank you" or "excuse me".

In my opinion there is only one way to stop the 20 m.p.h. people on cycles racing along our local footpaths. That is to STOP THEM. This is very effective, for they soon get tired of braking and begin to ride in a considerate manner. I suggest that all my readers try this out and soon our footpaths may be safe.

It is of great importance that Billericay and the surrounding countryside is kept beautiful, along with development. Anybody interested in the Council For The Preservation of Rural England should contact the Editor. They are also arranging the Billericay Museum.

All for now, "Wanderer".



THE STORY OF BILLERICAY.  
CHAPTER 15.

by Ha/R1.

In 1147, the Lordship of Great Burstead was in the hands of the Cistercians of Stratford Langthorn Abbey, and just over 100 years later, in 1253, Henry III granted them a Fair and Market to be held at Burstead, then, as you know, a parish which included Billericay. Edward I confirmed this Charter, and it is likely that even in those days the market and two fairs were actually held in the most populous part of the parish - the wide High Street of Billericay.

The most important fair would be the Autumn one, when the farmers sold off their surplus livestock before the winter when there was little food available other than Hay, most towns being cut off from their neighbours at that date and Season, so that it was the custom to kill off and salt down these surplus animals as food.

As this was the only town in Barstable Hundred, many villages used it as a centre for buying and selling not only the common things of life, farm produce etc., but also hides and wool for export. Billericay was then known as a 'Haven Town', and goods were collected here for transport abroad by way of the rivers which, at that time, were navigable for a much further distance than now.

The Crouch, for example, could be used for ships as high up as Wickford, and the fact that the Pilgrim Fathers, at a later date, assembled at Billericay before leaving for Leigh may perhaps be a clue to the business connections between the two towns at the time of which we are speaking. The arm of the Thames separating Canvey and Pitsea is still called The Haven, and there was also the Wardvke flowing from Warley and passing the Langdon Hills towards the Thames near Grays. This too would have been more navigable then than it is now.

Near the London Road and Blunt's Walls is a small wood called Shipman's Shaw and, until recently, a small old house facing the road bore the title 'Shipman's Farm'. Did this have some link with a Master of one of the ships trading with Billericay? The house was said to have been ancient and held the name for many generations before its destruction by fire.

The town had several prosperous woolmen buying from farms, or from the market, for the export trade, as well as skimmers and fellmongers dealing in hides at the time when few places had populations of more than 2,000, Billericay having about 1,200.

Brickmaking was also an industry at this period, and our own Church tower is a good example of the type of brickwork then in fashion.

In the centre of the town, near Chapel Street was the Pillory representing Courts of Law much higher than the ordinary manorial courts. In fact, the king's officers held their session here. Edward IV established a Post to Scotland, with stations at distances of twenty miles, and he also gave charters to towns suitable for markets. These included Billericay which, in that year 1468, was the most prosperous centre of south-east Essex, the charter allowing for a weekly market for swine, corn, and other merchandise, and two fairs for cattle on August 2nd, and October 7th, the feast of St. Mary Magdalene, name saint of the Parish Church at Great Burstead, and the Decollation of St. John Baptist after whom the Billericay Chapel had been named.

No one was allowed to buy or sell except in the market, and during the hours of business which were opened and closed by the ringing of the bell of St. John's Chapel, the same bell which is familiar to our ears today.

Public examples were made of offenders against this rule of trade. In 1570 we find the Widow Whiting of Stock fined for buying some malt on its way to Billericay market, and in June 1651 'John Stock of Billerika' was accused 'for buying a load of butter before 10 of Clock in ye morning.' And many more cases of these so-called 'Abuses' can be found in the Market Documents still existing in the Essex Records Office in Chelmsford.

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HOLMDALE PRIVATE HOTEL,  
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NEAR RYDE,  
ISLE OF WIGHT.



With our appearance in the "Daily Express" came a flood of letters, (well), from people asking for copies and inquiring about advertising. Now we have been filmed for the B.B.C. programme "Tonight".

We now have six pages, and though we are introducing a few more articles we are improving the spacing and making it more restful to the eye.

We are fairly well known to the P.O. for a letter to the "Billericay Observer", Billericay, Essex posted in Birmingham and another one from Sth London posted in the afternoon reached us the next day.

W. Grant, Editor.

FOR

THE

GARDENER.

Garden Planning - 4.

Today I will discuss a few more plans and specialised parts of the garden.

There was a mistake in my last article - "This seemingly exciting plot of land can be turned into an attractive garden". It should be unexciting. However the mistake is ironically true. For the local new gardeners get very excited over their rectangular plot of land. Ambitious plans that need two acres are shown all round, a flimsy shed is erected and they throw themselves into a frenzy of digging.

My next plan is for an ordinary back garden. I also have a variation for one without veg' gardens. I would like to remind my readers that free Garden Advice by an expert can be given in this column on their queries. This also helps other gardeners.



"Observer"

plan No 2.



"Observer"

plan No 2 (A).

Rock Garden:- Pools, rockerys and small paths etc. This can be left to individual taste and also gardening magazines frequently have features on rock gardens.

## PRESS FACILITIES. SOON?

W.P. Grant, 12-year old editor of the "Billericay Observer" is meeting the Clerk of the Council, Mr A. Hatt on Friday in conjunction with our request for full Press Facilities.

## "TONIGHT" UNIT IN BILLERICAY.

The "Tonight" film unit was in Billericay, from 9.30 to 7.30 on Thursday, filming for the film on the "Billericay Observer". The lighting and sound engineers arrived outside the office of the "Southend Standard" at 9.30 and soon the cameramen were setting up their equipment.

Just before 10.30 Mr Fyffe Robertson, the interviewer arrived in his car and transported "Observer" readers, Mrs Terry and Mrs Bowers to the High Street.

The cameras had aroused a great deal of interest, people were surrounding the set, Miss Z. Wakefield, the producer, had an immense job in keeping them back. All sorts of rumors were being passed around and hardly any even near correctness.

First to be interviewed was Mr R. Jeffereys, local reporter for the "Southend Standard". Interviews with "Observer" readers, Mrs Terry, Mrs Bowers, Mr White, and Master N. Norman followed.

After lunch exterior shooting commenced in Perry Street. There was a number of short outside shots concerning the editor, and a builder and man reading the "Observer". A film was taken of reader Mrs Bun, reading a copy in a garden, and also Mrs Scarborough.

Then the indoor shooting started. The house was turned upside down, lighting and cameras moved in. The light was very brilliant and snaking coils of wires were all about the place. The Sound Recording Branch set itself up in our office. The production team of about eight used phrases like "nigger the lights Mike", and similar jargon. Soon all was ready and the shots of the paper's production were taken. In Perry Street, people stared, for all that went on in the bright light could be seen from the road. And the row of cars and vans added to the excitement. Then the Editor, was interviewed and the filming ended at 6.30. Equipment was packed and the unit left at approx 7.30p.m.

## COMPETITION WINNERS.

Two of our few young readers received a prize for their entry in the competition in the issue of March 3rd. They were Master Peter Alexandrear of Cromwell Avenue, Billericay and Master P. Jeppsen of Stock Road, Billericay. Mrs Terry of Atridge Chase, Billericay was also awarded a prize for her entry. Voted top article was "Longsight".



## COMMENT.

Is it right that millions of pounds should be spent on attempts to reach the Moon when there are still blind people? Could this money not be spent on research into blindness? Surely we should not launch a moon rocket until everybody can see the Moon. Also, nobody has solved the mystery of the common cold yet. I think it would be comforting to people with colds to know that money, which could have been spent on space probes, was being spent on research into colds. In India there are families which live in horrible conditions and hardly have a thing to eat. Surely this money could be spent on helping them and educating them?

## "Another side".

However there is another side to the question. If we reach other planets, they may have most valuable minerals on them, or they may be suitable for growing food. All these things would help life on Earth. They may be very healthy. However before we get within 10,000 mls of Mars, Venus or Mercury many more millions of pounds will have to be spent, probably with loss of human life. And despite all the advantages the Scientists point out in Space travel, I still think the money would be better spent on making our Earth a better place to live in, don't you?

## Croydon

A correspondent suggests that if the Croydon council tenants fall out of work, while buying a house, as suggested. Well, other people - non ex-Council house tenants - earning under £15 a week, can lose their job while buying a house as much as ex-Council house tenants can.

Anyway, if you are earning over £20 a week you are not at all likely to lose your job. And if more than one member of the family brings in the money, they won't all fall out of work.

## WREATHES CROSSES

## CHAPLETS

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# (( KITTTS ))

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PROMPT DAILY DELIVERIES.

## LAKE MEADOWS CROWDS.

The warm weather on Easter Monday attracted large crowds to Lake Meadows. About two hundred cars were parked and the boats and cafeteria did a good trade.

## WE SUPPORT

the action of F.C. Jobson J.P. Chairman of Billericay Magistrates, who sent an Edmonton boy to prison for three months for carrying a knuckle duster in the locality.

In a particularly good speech Mr Jobson pointed out that the area would not be allowed to get like London and the disgraceful things that happened there.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

Slightly exaggerated accounts of Radio & T.V. Programmes.

"This is Jean in London with another edition of Family Favourites Can you hear me Germany?" "Yes, and it is a lovely day here with bright sunshine and temperatures of about 65 deg F. And this afternoon I am going with some friends for a walk in the Vodenstraiffer Palska Dpska with some friends among the spring flowers"

"Well in London it's a miserable day, a grey sky, the rain is pouring down and it's very cold", etc etc, then they actually start to announce a record:

"This for Alan Wlych in B.A.O.R. 345328I with fondest love from Mum, Dad, George, Fred, Bert, Eddy, Freda, Emily, who live at Number 23 Denton Street, I think Barsham - on-Gane, no, sorry, Darsham - on - Yane, Blershire, all at no's 21 and 19, the gang, and your sweetest Maisy who hopes you will be back soon. A most appropriate choice I think the song "I'm waiting for you" sung by the grasshoppers led by Elve Celve;

"A'm waiting for yui my darling Yui crazy baby, a'm waiting, kid why keep me waiting, I'm loving yoooo ----- ??

Then; "Here is a gale warning. Gale force 8, imminent in sea areas Rockall, Finistere and Iceland. Issued by Met Office at 16.00 hrs.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

One switches on the T.V. This is what you get; a cold front is moving into Western England and rain is forecast....& C. So you switch over.

This fills your screen; BLANCO the washing powder with the NEW! EXCLUSIVE! BLUE INGREDIENT Blanco cannot harm washing machines. Mrs Danes of Kilburn always uses BLANCO to get her husbands gardening shirts clean. "You can't beat BLANCO" she says.

"Mama, I want an ice cream" "You shall have more than an ice cream, a Call". "We all like Call's Ice Cream. Blocks from 12"

"Ah the last ad", you sigh Then ASSOCIATED AMERICAN PRODUCTIONS present

Cliff Brady

ROAD PATROL.

"eeee-k, bang". Cliff Brady walks to the body. Shot in the back. Let's go "Bang, brr"

Later in the film "He's escaped, after him. eeee-k. He's gone in there up to the roof. Dan etc. Up those stairs. "Barnes I got yu". "You'll never get me, I'll kill yu". "Don't be stupid Barnes". "I'm about to kill yu, one, two, three "A-hahhhhaaa"

Road Patrol always comes out tops, in our fight.

Ding, ding, ddding, ding, dang, EMERGENCY WARD 99.

oh no!!

????

## LONGSIGHT

is still on holiday in the Midlands, but it is hoped that he will shortly resume his humorous articles in the newspaper.

The "Billericay Observer" will probably be featured shortly on the radio.