HELPERS ARE NON-EXISTENT IN 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 was 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 1958, to March 1960.

Carnival Presents 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 1958 Carnival to the Committee. They had also asked for help on ideas on the Carnival.

BOY RESCUES HIS BROTHER FROM LAKE.

6-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 8-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 the 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 vestries on the ground at the back of Church House.

Another £20,000 - 9s - 6d is required before the target of £22,000 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.C. Council elections.

IN AID OF CHURCH.

The comedy play, "For Better or Worse" shortly to be presented by the Billericay Folk Players, from April 16th to 18th at the Archer 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 2/6p. for membership and details.

YOUNG GARDENERS' CLUB.

9 NEWHAM ROAD, LISTON, N. 22.
ROUND AND ABOUT BY "WANDERER".

One wonders just how still the East Anglia National can got 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 an no.

It looks as if Perry Street will never get a bus service. The Sunny Meade 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, St. Edmunds, N.W.!

I really must apologise for the very bad spacing but ye ancient "Observer's" typewriter has become very obstinate about spacing, suddenly, for an 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 local 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 don't say "thank you" or "excuse me".

In my opinion there is only one way to stop the 20 m.p.h. people on cycle racing along our local footpaths, and 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 Hillericay 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 Hillericay Museum. All for now, "Wanderer".

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CINEMA DIARY.

NITZ, BILLERICAY.

Thursday April 2nd. Three days.


UPDATE PROGRAMME.

Sunday April 5th.

The Gun Runner (A) and Target Zero (A). L.C.P. 7.15.

Monday April 6th. Three days.

Jean Simmons, Ian O'Grady 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 colliie that answers to the name of "King" takes his place in the top rank of Hollywood's animal stars with his vocal role in Samuel Goldwyn Jr.'s exciting Technicolor Western, "The Proud Rebel" (U) starring Alan Ladd and Olivia 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 get 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 it's further proof that you've got to accomplish something in your own field before Hollywood is interested in you. King is the star of the new 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 it very highly of the film, so highly to give it a special edition which is surely conclusive proof that King is a bigger star than Charles. 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.


FOUNH.

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

The purse should be claimed at 137, Perry Street, Billericay.
In 1147, the Lordship of Great Burstead was in the hands of
of the Canons of Stratford Langthorn Abbey, and just over 100 years
later, in 1258, 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 Harstable 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 Farmers, 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 Sargey and Pitsea
is still called the Haven, and there was also the Wardyke flowing from
Warley and joining 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 skinners 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 likened to the ordinary manorial
courts. In fact, the King's officers held their collection 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 1488, 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 Magdalen, name saint of the Parish
Church at Great Burstead, and the Decollation of St. John Baptist after
when the Billericay Chapel had been named.

No one was allowed to sell or buy 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 1658 John Stock
of Billericay was accused for buying a load of butter before 10 of
Clock in ye morning. And many more cases of those so-called 'Abuses'
can be found in the Market Documents still existing in the Essex Records
Office in Chelmsford.

"Sunrise",
15 Woodville Road,
Torquay. Tel 7131.
For comfortable Holiday Accomodation Centrally Situated.

M. Anderson.

ISLE OF NIGHT.
Isle of Wight. Ryde three miles.
Country Hotel. Bed, breakfast and
evening dinner May-June, September.
5 guineas. July & August, 6 guineas.

HOLIANS INN PRIVATE HOTEL,
HAVENSTREET,
NEAR RYDE,
ISLE OF WIGHT.
EDITORIAL CORNER.

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 filming 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 8th 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 around, 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.

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

PRESS FACILITIES.

W.P. Grant, 12-year old editor of the "Billericay Observer" is meeting the Clerk of the Council, Mr. A. Matt, 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 offices of the "Southend Standard" at 9.30 and so the cameramen were setting up their equipment. Just before 10.30 Mr. E. Roberts, the interviewer arrived in his car and transported "Observer" readers, Mr. 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. Jefferys, 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. Sun 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 5.30. Equipment was packed and the unit left at approx 7.30 pm.

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 Mary G. and Peter T. Armstrong of Crowwell Avenue, Billericay and Master P. Jepson of Stock Road, Billericay. Mrs. Terry of Abridge Chase, Billericay was also awarded a prize for her entry. The top article was "Lonsight".

"Observer" plan No 2 (A).
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 blind-
ness? 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
tide 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 miles
of Mars, Venus or Mercury many more
dollars of dollars 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
I suggested. Well, other people—non
council house tenants—earning
under £2 a week, can lose their
job while buying a house as much.
Le ex-council house tenants can.

Anyway, if you are earning
over £20 a week you are not 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
MADE TO ORDER
L. White, 130 Ferry Street, Billericay.
Announcing the new
"PRESCRIPTION
FOR ENERGY",
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Thorsons Ltd.,
91, St. Martin's Lane,

Buy your woolls at
NEWMAN'S,
103, High St, Billericay.
Nr, Woolworths, down turning side of
County Cleaners.
Woolls reserved six weeks.
Range from 1/- per oz.
Knitting Machine Specialists.
Knitmaster, Passage, Orton, Girotex.
Fast terms free tuition.

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A simple outline of the whole
Biblical story, full of interest and
helpful information.
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frames and windows are among its
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6 HIGH STREET, BILLERICAY.  
EVERYTHING FOR THE DO-IT-YOURSELF MAN.

PROMPT DAILY DELIVERIES.

LAKE MEADOWS CROWDS.  
The warm weather on Easter Sunday 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.S. 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 25 deg F. And this afternoon I am going with some friends for a walk in the Vodenstraffer Palaska Pzloka with some friends among the spring flowers.

"Well in London it's a miserable day, 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 Wylie in  
B.A.O.R. 34503321 with fondest love from Mum, Dad, George, Fred, Bert, Eddy, Freda, Emily, who live at Number 23 Denton Street. I think Darsham - on - Yare, no, sorry Darsham - on - Yare, Blaris, all at no. 21 and 19, the gang, and your sweetest Maury, 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 Calvi:

"I'm waiting for you, my darling,  
you crazy baby, a'h'm waiting,  
kiy way keep me waiting,  
I'm loving you ------ ??

The: "Here is a gale warning.  
Gale force 8, imminent in sea areas Rockall, Manistries and Iceland, Issued by Met Office at 15.00 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 INGREDIENT cannot harm washing machines. Mrs. Danes of Kildare always uses BLANCO to get her husband's gardening shirt to clean. "You can't beat BLANCO" she says.

"Mama, I want an ice cream."  
"You shall have more than an ice cream, a Calla." "We all like Call's Ice Cream, Blocks from 15."  
"At the last ad", you sigh.  
Then ASSOCIATED AMERICAN PRODUCTIONS present.

Cliff Brady  
ROAD PATROL  

Later in the film "He's escaped, after him. seeek. He's gone in thither up to the roof. Cap etc. Up those stairs." "Barnes got ye?" "You'll never get me, I'll kill you. Don't be stupid Barnes!" "I'm about to kill ye, one, two, three." "A-hahhhaahh.

Road Patrol always comes out tops, in our fight.  
Ding, ding, dding, ding, ding, EMERGENCY WARD 99,  
oh no!  
????

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

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