

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1959.

EDITOR WYNFORD P. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 42. PRICE 1½d.

## NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR BILLERICAY - WORK WILL START IN 1960/61

Essex County Council plan to build a new Secondary Modern School in Stock Road, Billericay, commencing work in 1960/61 it was stated at the meeting of Basildon Council, in committee, on July 30th.

It was explained that the school building programme for Billericay and Wickford had been settled some three or four years ahead of places actually becoming available, and that the population had grown in excess of estimates. In main the problem was related to children of secondary school age.

A secondary school at Hill Avenue, Wickford was now under construction but the County anticipated that the school would not be able to deal sufficiently with Wickford children. The County regarded Billericay and Wickford as complementary to each other for secondary education purposes, and some children would travel to Billericay for secondary education at the existing secondary school.

Members of the Council considered that the new secondary school at Hill Avenue, Wickford, should be completed at the earliest possible date, and that in order to avoid "crush" conditions when the school was completed, it was most necessary that demountable classrooms should be provided at an early date thus enabling the children of Wickford, to be satisfactorily accommodated at schools in Wickford, to avoid their travelling to Billericay. The County Education Committee has since decided not to carry out the Council's plan at the present time.

FOOTNOTE: The delay in this report is owing to the fact that the Council Press Statement did not reach us in time for the last edition.

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"Billericay Observer", 143, Perry St,  
Billericay, Essex, England.

### CHURCH HISTORY PUBLISHED SOON.

A short history of Billericay Parish Church written by Mr G. Amps will be published shortly. Proceeds will go to the Church Extension Fund.

O.A.P's - Wednesday the 19th.

At the meeting of the Billericay O.A.P. held at the Rose Hall on Wednesday August 19th there was an excellent attendance. Mr W. Joseph presided. The Chairman stated in his remarks stated the sick Members were going along favourably, and it was hoped they would all soon be back at the meeting. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs Lamb, Bob Curry and Dorothy of the B.B.C. and "Palace of Varieties" entertained, with songs and monologues which was much enjoyed. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Spencer, McCarthy, Wakeling, and Armstrong.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26TH.

At the meeting of Billericay O.A.P. held at the Rose Hall on August 26th, Mr T. Hopkins presided in the absence of Mr W. Joseph (Chairman) who was away with the Concert Party. There was a very good attendance. Mrs. Kitsell was welcomed back after being away so long on account of the sad bereavement of Mr. Kitsell. There was a good report on Mr Shaw who was away on the sick list, and all members were glad to hear this. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. McCarthy and Mr Hartwell. It was an impromptu afternoon whereby the Members entertained themselves. Those taking part were Mesdames Newall and Charlesworth and Messers Hopkins, Riches, Speller, and Williams. Mrs Pierce was the Pianist as Mrs. Dawkins was away with the Concert Party. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Spencer, McCarthy, Wakeling, and August.

From the next edition onwards the Council will meet again and we will bring you detailed reports of their decisions, even trivial, affecting YOU. See Editor's Notes - Page 4.



CINEMA DIARY,  
RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET,  
BILLERICAY.

Thursday September 10th, Walt Disney's, "THE SHAGGY DOG", (U). This is an all-the-family comedy. The film tells the story of two young budding scientists whose rocket goes straight through the roof! They return a shaggy dog to some new neighbours. Wilby is told by Dr. Plumcutt about sorcery in the middle ages. Accidentally finding a ring in his trouser turn-up he reads the Latin inscription and finds himself turning into a shaggy sheepdog! His father hates dogs and shoots them on sight. As a result of this he is mistaken for the new neighbour's dog where he is locked in a box room but manages to escape with the aid of a screwdriver. When dancing with Franceska the neighbour's daughter he finds himself turning into a dog again! He shelters that evening in Franceska's home. While there Dr. Andrassy, Franceska's father has a strange visitor. He overhears them making plans to make off with "Section 32" - a secret part from the local missile plant. He hurries to tell Moochie, who goes to tell pop all about it but he won't believe him. Wilby decides to give him shock treatment and pop does have a shock when he hears his son's voice coming from a dog. Moochie assures pop the story is true and they hurry to tell the security officer at the missiles plant. He thinks pop is mad when he tells him his son is a dog and calls in a psychiatrist. But when pop mentions he knows about "Section 32" the Security Officer won't let him go until he tells all he knows but still won't believe him. Moochie denies that Wilby is a dog so he can get away and help him. Wilby is locked up. Wilby chases the crooks in a car. Pop arrives home and chases Wilby. The police are unable to believe their ears when they hear "Suspect for stolen car - Large, shaggy dog. The police stop Wilby and search him for firearms, but he eludes them and continues the chase in their car.....

The film has been featured on I.T.V.

LOST - Budgie, name of Terry Young, (top of beak blue). Green with yellow breast. Small reward offered. If found return please to 7, Atridge Chase. (off Perry St.).

ROUND AND ABOUT  
by  
"WANDERER".

Last week Police removed parked cars from Perry Street and took the numbers. This measure was long overdue. People have to park their cars when they visit houses but there are times when it is unnecessary. For example, builders could easily park off the road. Perry Street has a 30 m.p.h. speed limit - but you wouldn't think so. Cars tear along at speeds of 40 and 50 m.p.h. In such a built-up area with so many children, some riding cycles this is very dangerous and the Police should take action NOW before there is an accident.

Now to the subject of the Perry St. - Station footpaths. Cyclists tear along here causing great danger. I have no objection to people who ride carefully, and at a reasonable pace, and ARE courteous using the footpath but I do suggest that a new strongly-enforced by-law, instead of the present loosely-enforced Cycling Prohibited. This by-law would prohibit excessive speed and dangerous riding with fines of up to £5 for each.

And now to Litter. The situation in Lake Meadows, Perry St. footpath, South Green, and other parts of Billericay is terrible. There is also a lack of bins. We need double the number. Once we have those - prosecute and have special Litter Patrols. And erect posters with the results of prosecution. Litter is a problem to be tackled seriously.

The Secondary School plan is good news for parents. It is much needed. Where will it be? It will definitely be BELOW Potash Road. BUT THE QUESTION IS Where exactly? I hope to be able to supply the answer shortly. But remember a large expanse of land is needed, although no doubt somebody's home would not stand in the way. At the same time I think it is good time the local Primary Schools were extended.

Many readers have at times complained about the lack of public telephones. Some people have a quarter-of-an-hour walk to a telephone which can be very inconvenient in Winter and very serious in case of emergency. So let's see some action.

The Council must see to it that the right of way from Perry St. footpath to the Station is not lost in the present industrial estate building. The girders of the first factory are up - "Wanderer".



"JANUS REPORTING". Copyright.

News from Hertfordshire is that a 3rd century Roman Statue was unearthed last week during the Verulamium (St. Albans) excavations. It is thought to be a 3rd century figure of Venus with a flower wreath round it. It is one foot in height and was unearthed on the sight of a Roman shop. There is much excitement and speculation. Until it has been cleaned and examined by experts it is not possible to describe it properly but it seems to denote early Roman craftsmanship.

Also in Hertfordshire is Britain's only Silk Farmer. She is Zoe Lady Hart Dyke. She started when she was a schoolgirl by swapping her pencil for a dozen silk worms eggs. She trotted home with her bargain and was thrilled when the eggs hatched. So started an interest which resulted in her becoming Britain's only Silk Farmer. Her first farm was started in 1932 in the attic of her home in Leatherhead, Surrey. It expanded to Lullingstone Castle, Kent, where the farm flourished for 25 years.

In 1957, she discovered that the ideal conditions for rearing silkworms were impeded by a nearby excavation linking Essex with Kent. So last year she arranged to rent Lord Brocket's Queen Anne Building Ayot House, Ayot Street, St. Lawrence, Herts. Here four minutes walk from the home of the late Bernard Shaw she is reviving the long-dead industry. Orders are sent to her from Buckingham Palace. The train of the present Queen's wedding dress was a product from her farm.

It also supplied all the silk used for the Coronation Robes. It was a triumph for English silk that Her Majesty should have wished to have this silk for such special Ceremonial Occasions. It was woven by Warner's, the Queen's weavers, of Braintree, Essex.

When the worms are 3 to 4 inches long it is as good as their spinning time has come. Many tourists from overseas and English visitors enjoy seeing this unusual work.

SICKNESS PREVENTION.

("Janus" has trained in Homeopathic medicine).

The heatwave has produced many colds and sore throats etc. Nylon next the skin is wrong for hot weather. The finest wool is absorbent and used in tropical climates next the skin. Only the lightest covering then needed and the wool being porous does not make excessive warmth - "JANUS".

THE BILLERICAY MUSEUM PROJECT.

Billericay has a great past. It is famous for the Iron Age remains, which indicate that the belief is true that it was a chief town of a Iron Age tribe, its unrivalled views made it a prosperous Roman garrison town - two forts, one in Norsey Woods, and one off Tye Common Road were built. Saxons and Normans lived here, and in the Middle Ages it was a prosperous wool town, one of England's largest, from Billericay several of the Mayflower voyagers set out, today it is a prosperous town of 15,000.

It is hoped that Billericay Museum will be ready by the Spring. It will be housed at 74, High Street, and is organised by the local branch of the Council For The Preservation of Rural England. (Or C.P.R.E.). Records the Museum has in plenty - old maps, household implements, press cuttings etc etc. And photographs there are very many, covering a large area of Billericay - for example Billericay's old Windmill, the old Toll House on Stock Road (recently demolished) and many others. The C.P.R.E. also makes sure that the character of the High Street is not ruined. In fact almost every acre in Billericay has some connection with the past.

Indeed, the collection is so vast that only sections will be shown at a time. The Museum will probably be run by volunteer members.

The Museum, meanwhile, keeps up to date with photographs and detailed sketches of properties likely to be demolished and press cuttings. Whole scrapbooks have been compiled on the town's larger houses and the Society has published an accurate history of every house in Central Billericay. A 2nd illustrated edition will be published shortly. The C.P.R.E. also deals with all other aspects of preservation in Billericay - the Museum is only a fraction.

The man who has worked so hard for the success of the Museum is Ha/Ri, well known for his "Ob" history articles. (SEE PAGE 44). Anything of interest for the Museum is welcome.



## EDITOR'S NOTES.

With the next edition the "bad season" for local news ends.

We have prepared an "improvement plan". This included "Ob's" in the newsagents, the town crier emblem on the front page, better presentation, more local news (in fact we hope ALL), local sport, return of the popular "Story of Billericay" shortly etc. Letters are welcome. We hope we will get more advertisements and have eight pages.

Spelling and grammar we will also improve on.

Everything (except "Janus") will be of local interest. We intend to live up to our policy of an informative, interesting, paper for Billericay residents. We will try to miss no local news out.

The "Billericay Observer" Story book is now out. It is obtainable, Price 6d, from us. It includes, History, Running a paper, Policy, The Future, "Janus's" name and story, answers to oft-asked questions etc.

In reply to a question by a certain reader we do not intend to make a profit for the Editor. We will not charge more for the paper as we aim to produce a good paper at a low price.

You will notice that we are printing on rougher paper again. There are two reasons for this. One, it is cheaper. Two, it prints better. We did once before use this paper but owing to the printing dispute were unable to obtain it. We have had to use up our printing dispute supplies.

W. GRANT - EDITOR

"BOOKSHELF" ----- By "B.J.P."  
"Observer" book reviews.

A HISTORY OF CORNWALL Duckworth, 30s  
By F.E. Halliday. 15 pages of excellent photos. "The book from stone age to atom age", CHARLES CAUSLEY says, "This excellent readable history".

ARM OF THE LAW Hammond, 12s 6d by Micheal Underwood. This excellent book begins with the murder of a French lady's maid in London. The case turns to Trinidad where two C.I.D. men find themselves surrounded by carnival week. PENGUIN PAPERBACKS for holiday reading, 2s 6d each, "DOCTOR SALLY", P.G. Woodhouse and "MURDER IN MESOPTAMIA" - Agatha Christie.

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## HAVE YOU TRIED

### GOATS MILK?

RICH, NUTRITIOUS, RECOMMENDED FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFANTILE EXCEMA.

Please bring own bottle.

197, PERRY STREET.

Temperature in Billericay last Thursday was 86 deg. F. By Saturday it had fallen 28 deg. to 56 deg. F. On Sunday it rose to 66.5 deg. F.

BUNGALOWS WOULD REDUCE OPEN CHARACTER - Planning Appeal.

Mr C.G. Kemp has appealed against the Council's decision to refuse to allow him to build three bungalows next to the Police Houses, Ramsden Bellhouse. Consequently a Town Planning Inquiry will be held on September 8th.

The Council's grounds for refusal are that the development represents an extension of undesirable ribbon development along Church Rd and furthermore would effectively reduce the open character of this particular stretch of road. Also the land is intended on the County Development Plan as a local green belt separating Billericay and Wickford and also part of the the Metropolitan Green Belt.

### "CLAYKICKER"

BILLERICAY, SUNDAY. Sad do I report that after last edition's outburst (in queer language) on men helping wives plus advice of readers "Longsight" is deep in domestic chores and is unable to write this week. So, kicking the famous clay of Billericay off my boots I write or the poet - Puts that delightful blue, wandering, mysterious, mountain like, ink to soft, creamy, sun-warmed paper - or the scientist - A mixture of Hydoric Clidoxide and Myrsium Foxide in liquidated suspension with Erated Minor Spycillozxicotp. But I'm a journalist and the paper must be 'put to bed'. Seriously. O.A.P.'s living in the Perry St. area have the long walk into Billericay for their pensions. And with the everyday postal needs Perry St. people walk to the High Street - or go without. A Post Office (sub) would be a great help and would save many tiresome walks. I suggest the stores in the Queens Park area. Other places have Post Offices - why not Perry Street. The P.M.G. said to the local O.A.P.'s said "Not at present but perhaps". Hopeful. We need it NOW.



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## COMMENT.

Once a book called "The Little Town" about the history of Billericay, the C.P.R.E. published a book about the history of the buildings and ground in the central area. But the "Little Town" book is absolutely outdated and the C.P.R.E. book about the houses in the central area only.

There is no complete "Billericay Story". So I suggest that for the interest of the local people that a book be written by somebody somehow. Also a book in volumes could be written.

At 18 you can fight for your country but can not have a vote in its affairs. After 14 you pay full fare on the buses. At 16 you can get married in Scotland without consent but you wait until your 21 in England. When is an end going to come to this state of affairs? The bus companies should raise the half-fare limit to 15. (And O.A.P.'s too). And after you're 16 your parents have no legal right to make them look after you. Lower the voting age to 18, compromise over the consent age to 19 with special court permission, 19+ otherwise. Raise the looking-after age to 18 and stop these silly differences! 18 - The DOOR KEY?

BILLERICAY  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## AUTUMN OPEN SHOW

on SEPTEMBER 19th, 1959.  
to be held in

ARCHER MEMORIAL HALL, LAINDON RD.

To be opened at 3.30p.m.  
by

COUNCILLOR W. H. DAVIES J.P.  
CHAIRMAN OF BASILDON U.D. COUNCIL.

SCHEDULE FROM:-

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Show Secretary,  
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CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY ST.

CHURCH SERVICES: Communion; 1st Sunday in month, 9.30 a.m. Evensong; 3.30 p.m. except 1st Sunday in month.

YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP will recommence on September 15th, 2 to 3 p.m., at the Church, after the break for the Summer Holidays.

FOR SALE: Boys fawn gaberdine raincoat, hardly worn, fit boy aged 10 to 12, 30/- . Apply "Observer" offices.

COOKERY - MARROW GINGER JAM.  
Economical & Delicious.

4lbs Marrow           3 Lemons  
4lbs Sugar           1 1/2ozs Root Ginger  
(tie in muslin and bruise

Peel marrow, and remove seeds, cut into cubes and place in a bowl with sugar in layers and leave overnight. Grate lemon rind and squeeze juice. Put with fruit, ginger, and sugar in a pan and boil until marrow is clear. Remove bag of ginger. Test for set after 30 to 35 minutes; pot and seal.

It is found best to boil longer than stated (around 1 1/2 hours).

If you have difficulty in obtaining the marrow apply to the "Ob" offices and you will be supplied.

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**STOP PRESS**

LIFE WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER by B. J. Page

"AFTER SATURDAY CONTINUED PRODUCTION IS UNCERTAIN"; that was the statement in all daily newspapers when the print ink dispute was in full effect recently.

But, what if we had, NO NEWS-PAPERS, to think of what would happen if not one, even local newspapers did not come out. What would be in the minds of the everyday public? No crosswords to do on the train or bus, no big competitions to enter, no big news to read on the things that are happening in the wide world today. The big man who deals in stocks and shares would miss his news of take-over bids etc.

The everyday women would indeed miss the fashion and woman's gossip page, the people who enjoy the cartoon strips would indeed miss them, the person who looks forward to details of entertainments and exhibitions in progress would indeed miss that, the record review would be missed very much by the music lovers of today, think of how the adverts keep us in touch with new things out, jobs to be had and things offered for sale.

The Saturday gardening feature would be missed by the gardener, the little and big features on everyday problems would be missed. Reader's letters is one thing we look forward to - without letter from ..... there would be a large gap. The pictures that bring to us the world news would also leave a large gap. In fact all the everyday interesting things that go to make a newspaper what it is, would be missed by every one, without the newspaper life would be extremely dull - reading magazines and books would not be all we would need to obtain a fuller knowledge of this ever news making world of ours. The newspaper brings hope to those who are shut away in hospitals. Those who are unable to travel or get about, would find that without the daily newspaper in their hands they would be unable to grasp the world situation at the present day and time. The newspaper as well as being entertaining is educational to the mind, let us hope that the Daily, Sunday, and Evening newspapers will never be out of production, as life would be so funny without a newspaper.

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