

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15th.

EDITOR WYNFORD P. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 43. PRICE 1½d.

RESIDENTS DEMAND - "VERY BAD PLANNING" INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PUBLIC ENQUIRY

Billericay Residents Association are demanding a public inquiry regarding the Billericay Industrial Estate, which the Lyon Group are now constructing and will stretch from Perry Street to the Station, bounded by the railway and Ricketts Drive, Knightbridge Walk, Long Meadow, and the Perry Street-Station footpath. They have written to the Minister of Housing and Local Government asking for an enquiry, which they have backed up with a large number of letters to the local press. Members have made door-to-door visits to residents.

Mr J. E. Hillyard who, with a letter to a local paper, started the campaign, told the "Observer" at his home at "Jasmine" Cromwell Avenue, Billericay: "The Council must be made to realise that they can't alter the whole face of a town and change it from pleasant residential to a semi-industrial town without very careful attention to landscaping and spacing of the whole industrial site".

Mr Hillyard went on: "The council needs a kick in the back, the whole site is very badly planned and when a Council starts that something needs doing. The estate will devalue properties and the gateway to the town will be completely spoilt".

PERRY ST. BUSES --- "CONSIDERATION"

A bumper attendance of Billericay O.A.P.'s at the Rose Hall on Wednesday September 2nd were told by their Secretary that the Eastern National Bus Co. had written to the association concerning a Perry St. bus service that they were giving consideration to the matter and would inform the Secretary when they had a satisfactory answer. Laindon No. 1. Concert Party gave enjoyable entertainment. Mrs Dawkins hoped to return to the meeting shortly after having her leg in plaster and Mr. Shaw was up in hospital. Mr W. Joseph presided.

"SHOCK TO OPPONENTS" - LIBERALS ARE READY FOR ELECTION.

Billericay-Brentwood Liberal Association are ready for the election on October 8th.

They told the "Observer" that: "The Liberals are quietly confident that a shock is about to be administered to their opponents. We are quite sure that the result of the recent local election, when so few local residents took the trouble to vote, was no indication of the real strength of Liberalism in this district".

Basildon Council have changed the date of their next Council Meeting which falls on the date of the General Election to Tuesday October 13th.

The constituency of Billericay, which includes Brentwood, Shenfield, Hutton, Ingrave, Pilgrim's Hatch, Basildon New Town, Wickford, Billericay and villages is held by the Conservatives with a large majority. The present M.P. is Mr. Richard Body who is not seeking re-election.

Candidates for the election are Mr. Edward Gardner (Conservative), Mr. Sheldon-Williams (Liberal) and Miss Rita Smythe (Labour-Co-op).

GARDEN PARTY IN AID OF NEW CHURCH.

The aim of a Garden Party held by Billericay Methodist Church on Saturday September 12th at the home of Dr W.B. and Mrs. Rilstone, 22, High Street, Billericay was to raise money for the new Church and have an enjoyable social afternoon.

The Garden Party was opened by Mr H.S.A. Rother, who came as a member of Billericay Rotary Club. The aim of the club, which has thirty members is to get behind any organisation in the town which can do any good and help them in every possible way. Mr Rother is also Chairman of Billericay-Brentwood Conservative Association.

The new Church will be built on the site of the present one in Western Rd. and the Trust Secretary stated at the Party that something was 'imminent' indicating that work might start soon. Stalls and sideshows were run by ch. members

CINEMA DIARY,
RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL ST.,
BILLERICAY.

Monday September 14th, Three Days.

Rossano Brazzi, Joan Fontaine in "A CERTAIN SMILE", (A), 5.10.8.25. Bertrand Griot, a student at the Sorbonne, plans to marry a fellow student, Dominique Vallon, if he can persuade his mother to lend him part of his inheritance before it is due. The story goes on with mix-ups, tragedies, broken romances, accidents etc. Also Rd. Widmark in "MY PAL GUS", (A) - 6.50.

Thursday September 17th, Three days.

An all Walt Disney programme alone is a sure guarantee of good entertainment for the family. A well-spoken Walt Disney is even better. "FANTASIA" and "DISNEYLAND, U.S.A." - wonderful entertainment for the family. 5.25, 8.7. L.C.P. 7.20. Matinee Sat. 2.30.

Sunday September 13th.

Old films - but the best! Dana Andrews in "ROMANCHE", (U). Also "THE KILLER IS LOOSE". A drama in which a bank robber's wife is killed. He is determined to get his own back on the Detective responsible for his arrest. He aims to get this revenge when he escapes from prison, and it is found out he intends to kill the Detective's wife. (A).

Monday September 21st, Three Days.

Van Johnson, Vera Miles in "BEYOND THIS PLACE", (A), 5.30.8.35. L.C.P. 7.00. Also, "CARRY ON ADMIRAL", (U) - the latest of the "carry on" farces this is one of the funniest.

Thursday September 24th, Three Days

THE ROYAL COMMAND PERFORMANCE FILM, starring, ALEC GUINNESS and KAY WALSH in "THE HORSES MOUTH". What could be a higher stamp of a good film than a Royal Command Performance Film? Critics have acclaimed this as an excellent film. Also "RIDE OUT FOR VENEGANCE", (U), L.C.P. 7.00.

Sunday September 20th.

Edward G. Robinson in "NIGHTMARE", (A), Fear grips jazz musician as he wakes one morning - he remembers a horrible nightmare, that he has killed someone. Things turn against him - it looks as if he is a murderer but the conclusion, and what really happened is more startling. Also "HUK", (A) - Guerilla fighting in the Philippines.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

You have probably already read about the dispute concerning the Billericay Industrial Estate. First I would like to say there is a need for limited, well-spaced, landscaped, tree-screened light industry in Billericay. But the Council must release that 90% of the residents - even more - came to Billericay because it was a pleasant country town to live in with satisfactory amenities. But it is obvious that a 40-factory estate will devalue many properties, ruin the centre of Billericay and many people will have a view of factory roofs instead of pleasant country from their windows and when out. The disgraceful thing is it wasn't the only possible site. Factories have been built at Kennel Lane and this site is most suitable for a few factories. The only houses affected by this plan would be Council Houses which wouldn't devalue. What could the land which may be used as industrial land be used for? (A) - A road to Perry Street, (B) A School and (C) An extension to Lake Meadows which is not large enough.

Is Billericay going to be ruined by these factories of horrible asbestos roofs and 'jerry' construction. Is the view from Lake Meadows, to which thousands of people come from a 30-mile radius going to be ruined? NO, if you take action and are not apathetic. One way of doing this is calling at the Council Offices or writing a letter of protest to the Council. For too long the Council has done what it likes in Billericay! "A kick in the back". Bravo! Three cheers for Billericay Resident's Association.

A Public Meeting may be called soon, so when it is, attend please!

Action would have been able to have been taken earlier if the Council opened all meetings and committees, to, at least the Press, if not the Public. It just proves - when a Council meets in private - well, you never know. The Conservative Party manifesto says that Press should be given proper facilities at Council Meetings. They would prefer a code, but will introduce a bill, if necessary, if they win the Election. This is good news indeed. The Council, however, have so far ignored the Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr Henry Brooke's speeches on Press Facilities. - "Wanderer".

"LONGSIGHT".

What "Longsight" saw and heard in the bright moonlight. Place: Lake Meadows Park. Time: 12.15 past midnight.

Two burly toughs stroking the place where their beards ought to be.

Whispering and crouching down - then - a startling sharp cry: "I've got him".

Was "Longsight" scared? Not on your life! You see these burly toughs had just caught a fish. The toughs ages? About 12 to 14 years of age. How did they get into the park at midnight? You may ask. Through the gaps in the fence large enough for a furniture van to get through without touching the sides.

But there is one redeeming feature, have you noticed the strong, lovely cow chain, also large padlock to keep the gates locked for the night? (Perhaps it's to keep the frogs out, I wouldn't know, for these park people have their own funny ideas.) Not to keep those young rogues in velvet knickers out - or should it be jeans? Oh well, boys will be boys. I only hope they caught some good fish and not a cold.

PLEASE NOTE: Dear readers, "Longsight" was not trespassing in the park he was walking in the moonlight on the path below.

Well dear readers, for private reasons this will be my last article, I regret I must resign. Many thanks for toleration, criticism, praise - happy reading - "Longsight"

"WANDERER" writes: The fences were recently replaced and were, yet again, broken down. Several people have complained of rowdism in Lake Meadows at night. Last February the Council had a plan to employ an ex-policeman and dog to patrol Lake Meadows and other parks, and cemeteries where rowdism occurs and catch the offenders. Action should be taken on these matters.

LETTER (condensed).

Dear W. Grant, (Ed. B.O.),
Reading in the "AUCKLAND STAR" of your success as a newspaper editor-proprietor I was very interested.

I lived at Billericay with my grandmother when young, she lived there all her life, next door to the Reading Room right opposite the beautiful, old church in High Street.
MRS J. MARSH, 1, 606 Great North Road, Avondale, Auckland, S.W. 3, N. Zealand.

WATERWORKS HAND-OVER WILL BENEFIT RATEPAYER AND CONSUMER.

The hand-over on October 1st of the Langdon Hills, Basildon, water undertaking will benefit the ratepayer, in general, and the consumer, to the Southend Waterworks Company.

In a Press Statement it is stated that, in 1951, when it was suggested that the undertaking be transferred to Southend Waterworks Company, the Council were reluctant to part with the undertaking, being aware of the history of its formation and anxious to preserve any benefits that existed for the consumer in the area.

In 1956 the Council were conscious of the fact that it would not be long before they had to undertake very heavy capital expenditure to make provision for the great expansion in population that would take place in Langdon Hills and had good reason to believe that loan sanction would not be forthcoming to permit such works to be undertaken.

Up to 1957 the Undertaking had been operating from year to year, without involving anything but a small charge on the general rate, but considerable aid from the General Rate has proved necessary to obviate an increase in charges. This position was likely to have been worsened if the Council had been faced with heavy additional capital expenditure and with the necessity of providing better technical and administrative staffing and facilities than then existed.

The terms of the transfer are that the Waterworks Company will pay the Council a sum of £6,500 and will pay for all moveable stores and plant that is transferred to the Company by the Council. Out of the £6,500 the Council will be able to meet any outstanding loan debt on the Undertaking and some surplus will be left.

The transfer will ensure the maintenance of an adequate water supply to the Langdon Hills area, and will eradicate the threat of increased expenditure to the ratepayer and the consumer. Also, it was in the Council's interest to conform voluntarily to the Government's policy of regrouping rather than have the transfer thrust upon the concerned parties. Also the Waterworks Company have greater resources than the Council and more competent technical services than the Council.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

At the moment we are in a period of transition with the paper. We aim to give lat. priority to local news and articles, other articles filling up any room left.

It is a great time for the "Observer" - we are now selling in the newsagents - Howard's in the High Street. This is aimed at reducing the Editor's work whilst increasing the circulation. (We are printing 285 copies this time). Any reader who would like to have the paper from the newsagents should inform the Editor.

We shortly hope to include reports of sport in the paper, indeed all Billericay news - though we print the highest percentage at present. We aim to have our Town Crier on the front from the next edition onwards. In this edition "Janus" did not send her article on time, through no fault of her own so some improvisations have been made. Letters, with constructive criticism of the paper and local events are more than welcome.

Now policy:- "The main object of the "Billericay Observer" is to provide its readers with news of Billericay in full in a clear and concise manner printed in a clear type which everybody can easily read. The paper is an adult one. The "Billericay Observer" will spend profit it obtains on improving the paper for the reader's benefit in general. Circulation target is 500 copies. A very interesting book "THE BILLERICAY OBSERVER STORY". Price 6d. is available.

This is "Longsight's" last article. The past few have not been up to his previous standard but we wish him good luck in the future.

We do not intend to spend very large sums on publicity for the paper - we feel it speaks for itself.

W. Grant (Aged 12 - Entire producer, "B. Observer", the World's Youngest Editor.

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O. A. P.'s
Wednesday 9th September.

At the meeting of Billericay O. A. P. held at the Rose Hall on Wednesday 9th September Mr W. Joseph presided. There was a very good attendance. The Chairman stated that Mr. Shaw was now progressing favourably. As to other sick Members he regretted to say that Mr. Hutton had been taken to hospital and that Mrs Paynes was very ill. All were wished a very speedy recovery. Birthday honours were accorded to Mrs August, senior, Mrs Lynam, and Mr. Pegg. Entertainment was given by the Branch's own Concert Party, those taking part were Mesdames Plumridge and Sippitt, and Messers. Joseph, Wiltshire, and Plumridge. Leader being Mr H. Dawkins, Pianist, Mrs H. Dawkins. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Johnson, Wiltshire, Clark, and Rose.

LOWER AND LOWER.

Lake Meadows lake water level is getting lower and lower. Banks, concrete, have been exposed, and bricks used in the construction of the lake have seen the light of day for the first time in over 80 years. Owing to the level of the water being only ankle-deep one section of the lake, near the Cafe has been fenced off. However, it is unlikely that all the lake will dry up for the middle is said to be over 30ft deep. The danger level as regarding water will be reached in just over three weeks if there is no rain. No restrictions have been imposed but users are asked not to waste water. Above all, hoses should not be used in excess - they should be held in the hand, there have been several convictions in the area recently for using sprinklers, forks, walls etc. without a meter.

C. P. R. E. JOIN IN.

Since the news that Billericay Residents Association have demanded for an inquiry into the Industrial Estate the Billericay Area Group of the Council For The Preservation of Rural England have joined them in asking for the inquiry. The C. P. R. E. have similar views to those of the Resident's Association regarding the Estate. (See Page I).

LATE NEWS.

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COMING EVENTS in Billericay.

SEPTEMBER 12th: Billericay Scouts-Jumble Sale, Rising Sun Hall, 2.30p.m.
SEPTEMBER 19th: Official opening at 3.30p.m. by Councillor W.H. Davies, Chairman of Basildon U.D. Council, Billericay Horticultural Society Autumn Open Show at Archer Hall. Schedules from Show Secretary at 4, Upland Close.
W.I. Hall, 2.30p.m. Jumble Sale in aid of Billericay Round Table.

WE WELCOME NEWS OF YOUR SOCIETY/ ORGANISATION. WRITE TO THE EDITOR.

In answer to reader's demand for a "Billericay Story" book to be published the C.P.R.E. Billericay Group, (who deal with Billericay history) tells me that the C.P.R.E. have no plans for such a book at present. However, they are shortly publishing an illustrated book on central Billericay, its houses and land and history and other great houses of Billericay. Regarding a suggestion that the "Ob" "Billericay Story" series be edited into a book and published, there is a slight possibility that the "Observer" may produce at Christmas, if there is sufficient demand a limited number of 4d or 6d booklets on the subject.

FOR SALE.

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

The YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP will re-commence after the August break, 2 to 3p.m., Tuesday September 15th, at the Church.

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THE BILLERICAY STORY. by Ha/Rd.

2nd series. Chapter I.

INTRODUCTION: Owing to popular demand Ha/Rd, an expert on Billericay and area history is writing another series about Billericay history. It commences with this week's article of the title "Billericay Market". Next week a series of three articles giving the general Billericay Story from 500 B.C. to 1959 will commence. After that there will be a series of articles dealing with various aspects of Billericay History and the history of areas of Billericay.

BILLERICAY MARKET (AND MARKET HOUSE).

Unfortunately, no view of the old Billericay Market House is known to exist, and even the site is a matter of guesswork.

On a map dated 1681, however, a building is shown in the centre of the High Street where it widens out by Bascom's present shop, about that time the Magpie and Horseshoe Inn. This position occupies just the same kind of site as market houses in other towns, and there is not much doubt that the building shown was Billericay's Market House which stood until about 1830. Another map, in the Essex Records Office, shows the High Street in the latter date, when the road is quite clear of any obstruction at this point, and the well known view of Billericay in 1832 has likewise no sign of a building there. It is easy, however, in studying this picture to imagine the scene of two or three years before.

A little nearer the Church on the 1681 map is shown what appears to be the old pillory etc.

The ancient Market House was probably very much like those still seen in various parts of the country, open on the ground level with perhaps a small lock-up for offenders against the law, and a small room for the Market Clerk etc. Above would have been a larger room used for various matters to do with the market itself, as well more general purposes dealing with the good order of the town.

In 1684 Samuel Bayly founded a Grammar School, at Billericay, endowed with the rents of Watch House Farm, Laindon. This was to be held in the 'room over the market house' and did so until it was removed to the new building of 1830. We also have the evidence of the 'Markett Rentalls' and 'Accounts of the Market & stalls' etc. in the Essex Records Office for further details.

In 1830, the newly formed Town Hall Company erected, headed by Sir John Tyrell, the more substantial building near the prosperous 'Crown Inn' and the lesser known 'Maiden Head'. (Now between Clark's, the butchers and Health dept. of Council.). To this building which included a Corn Exchange and Assembly Room etc, was transferred the Grammar School which was given a room of its own.

When the building was taken over by the Police slight alterations were made to the exterior which, on the ground floor originally had a central doorway with a tall window at each side - a complete reversal of its present appearance - whilst, at roof level the original statues were replaced by the balls to be seen today. It is at present the Basildon U.D. Council Chamber.

In some of the Market accounts a place called 'the shambles' is mentioned, and the 'tilted stalls between the Salt Bins and The George'. On the map of 1593, these so-called salt bins are shown near the 'Croune', (site of Clark's butcher's shop, and the 'George Inn' was what is now the three shops occupied by Ashley's and Howard's. Also rents paid by:- 'Jeremy Reynolds for a little room under the Market House' and 'Edwd. Murrell for a standing by the well'.

Among the stallholders are to be found (a large number) of 'Gingerbread men', Butchers, Patten makers, Edgtoolmen, Pedlars, Hardwaremen, and, about 100 years ago a stall for Staffordshire China is mentioned as a popular feature of the now vanished Billericay market.

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