

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27th.

EDITOR WYNFORD P. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 46. PRICE 1½d.

RESIDENTS' FIGHT AGAINST INDUSTRIALIZATION—LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Billericay Residents' Association are continuing their fight against the industrialization of Billericay by Ronald Lyon Co Ltd. A spokesman for the Association told the "Observer" that their fight was now in the stage of negotiation. It was wrong to say that the whole thing had 'fizzled out' for the Association have been very active in their efforts and have gathered some very important evidence for the Public Enquiry, which, it is hoped, will be held shortly. "The Times" and "Daily Telegraph" have included further reports and letters regarding the Association's fight. The Association have written to the Essex County Planning Offices at Romford and to the Ministry of Transport regarding the prospective death spot caused by the entrance road. They have taken other measures, which at present cannot be revealed. A Fighting Fund has been established and donations (receipts will be given) can be sent to the Treasurer, Mr S. R. Brown, "Queensmere", Cromwell Avenue, Billericay or any Committee member.

A recommendation of the Planning Committee regarding the site was passed at the Basildon Council meeting on October 13th. It reads "That a notice be served on Ronald Lyon Ltd. under the provisions of Section 19 of the Essex County Council Act, 1952, prohibiting the erection of any building on land abutting on the new street until the carriageway of the street has been constructed and sewered in accordance with the Council's byelaws for new streets". Erection of buildings has continued.

NO DELEGATE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

Despite opposition by the Council's Labour Group, Basildon Council passed on October 13th a recommendation that no delegate conference be held in 1960. Counc. Dove, Leader of the Labour Group remarked that since the Conservatives had been in power, Public & Press relations had gone downhill.

"YE-OLDE WORLDE COACH TOWN" - BILLERICAY BY COUNCILLOR.

"We all know that Billericay residents like Billericay "ye-olde worlde coach town", stated Councillor Dove at Basildon Council meeting on October 13th referring to the fight of the Residents' Association to prevent the industrialisation of the town. "They want that, and any factories tucked away behind the woods towards Basildon - but they can't have that, they've got to accept progress".

Councillor W. H. Davies J. P., Chairman of the Council said that if the Council revoked their planning permission given to the factories the compensation would be considerable.

Councillor Smart said, "I don't know what the people of Billericay are cribbing about - think of the jobs provided".

In reply to persistent questioning of Councillor A. P. Phelps, who referred to the fact that the people obviously didn't want the factories, Councillor W. H. Davies said that the Council had given permission for the erection of 9 factories.

Councillor Mrs. Gadson said that the factories would not be of cheap construction as the residents said but of good construction and good design.

QUEENS PARK ESTATE - COUNCIL CLERK WRITES.

The Editor, Sir,

I refer to the issue of the "Billericay Observer" dated 29th. September and in particular to the article "Round and About by "Wanderer" in which I see a statement that 1,500 houses are to be built on the Queens Park Estate. I am writing to say that neither the Council, nor any of their officers know of any such proposal, and I am concerned that your article may cause needless anxiety to people in the Queens Park area. - A. HATT, LL.B. D. P. A. 98, High Street, Billericay. Clerk of Basildon Council. Ed; One of the reasons given by the Council at a Public Enquiry into the extension of the Mountnessing Road Sewage Works was residential developments in the future, in the Queens Park area - a. Needless anxiety?

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Monday October 26th. Three Days.

"BIG COUNTRY", (U).

Thursday October 29th. Three Days.

Victor Mature, Anthony Newley, Anne Aubrey in "THE BANDIT OF ZHOBE", (U).

On India's north-west frontier, tribal chieftan Kasim is falsely accused of murder and hunted by British Major Crowley; Kasim, in turn, believes Crowley is responsible for the deaths of his own wife and child.

Kasim turns bandit. Zena, Major Crowley's daughter, manages to prove, with the help of Corporal Stokes, that both men have been framed by the dread Thuggees into fighting each other. Kasim fights beside the British when the Thuggees storm the British fort. Also "GOOD DAY FOR HANGING", (U).

Monday November 2nd. Three Days.

Peter Cushing (as Sherlock Holmes),

Andre Morell (as Dr. Watson)

Christopher Lee (as Sir Henry Baskerville in the "A" film, "THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES". This is a Sherlock Holmes thriller based on a terrible hound. Sherlock Holmes is instructed to safeguard Sir Henry's interests. Sir Henry falls in love with a local farmer's daughter. A treacherous mire, a lonely abbey, Sir Henry's heart condition, an escaped convict, and two people full of hatred are excellent ingredients for a horror film. Also "THE KILNER", (A).

Thursday November 5th. Three Days.

Ronald Shiner, Donald Sinden, Barbara Murray, Carole Lesley in "OPERATION BULLSHINE", (U). Fall-in for laughs!

The story concerns the posting of a group of A.T.S. girls to a Light Ack-Ack Command Post on a remote part of the English coast. Also "JOHNNY ROUGH", (U).

NEW BILLERICAY ALLOTMENT SITE.

- INVESTIGATION.

Basildon Council passed, on October 13th, a recommendation by the Council's Parks Committee that, as Billericay Horticultural Society had received such a large number of enquiries regarding the possibility of an allotment site being provided in the Mountnessing Road/Perry Street area, that the Engineer and Surveyor report whether there is suitable land available.

STOP PRESS.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by

"WANDERER".

The fight against the industrialisation of Billericay is progressing very well and has chances of succeeding, providing residents do not lose their first enthusiasm. You can help at the moment by, if you have not already done so, joining the Association or donating a small sum to the Fighting Fund - an investment to prevent the devaluation of your home.

Supporters of the scheme keep on talking of the jobs that would be provided. Is there an urgent and desperate need for such jobs, are one-quarter of the local people out of work, thousands, as in some depressed areas? The latest figures of unemployment for Billericay, Brentwood, and Ongar are: Out of work - 81 men including disabled personnel, 50 women, including married women. At the most a total of 40-50 people out of work in Billericay, most of those will not be out of work for long. Factories? Why? The Walthamstow residents - no, I can confidently say that they are, most of them happy in their present employment. Hard as I try I cannot find any concrete reason for the industrialisation of Billericay.

Councillor Dove of Basildon Council stated at the recent Council meeting stated that (or words to that effect) that the residents of Billericay must have the industry whether or not they like it. Yet I am told that the Minister of Housing & Local Government stated recently that if a majority of residents in a certain area were against a certain development the development should not proceed.

Councillor Mrs Gadson speaks of the "good design" of the factories. Liverpool St. Station is now promoted to glorious piece of design and beauty whilst one forms the picture of the local refuse dump open to the public at 6d. a time to admire it. Mrs Gadson should live near the factories for a week.

Owing to the small gardens of people living in the area and the lack of allotments in Billericay I feel that part of the proposed Industrial Estate, preferably the area abutting on to Ricketts Drive and Knightbridge Walk.

----- "WANDERER".

HOSPITAL FRIENDS HAVE MANY FRIENDS OUTSIDE OWN MEMBERSHIP.

Speaking at the Annual General Meeting of St. Andrew's Hospital League of Friends held at the W.I. Hall on October 20th Mr S.C. Squires paid tribute to the League's many friends outside their 65 members. Referring to the League's Annual Fete held in June he said that in response to an appeal for help 180 people responded. Every worthwhile organisation in the town had rallied round to help. Referring to the League's financial state Mr Squires said there was a balance of apx. £500. "This", he said, "will soon be spent", he added, "We don't provide the things somebody else ought to provide".

The object of the League, which was founded five years ago, is to provide the extras that were provided in hospitals before the commencement of the National Health Service. During the past year they have provided cubicles, headphones and control unit for a ward, armchairs, hassocks, Christmas and other festivities etc.

BAZAAR IN AID OF MAINTENANCE OF HALL

Billerica Women's Institute held a bazaar on October 24th at the W.I. Hall in aid of the maintenance and upkeep of the hall.

The bazaar, which was very well attended to packed point, was opened by Mrs K.L. Burton, County Handicraft Organiser and Vice-Chairman of the Essex W.I. Federation. She said that she hoped the residents of Billericay realised that the hall was a W.I. Hall. She thought that it reflected very high credit on the Institute and Billericay for keeping the hall open in the days of increased costs and decreased takings.

INTEREST RATE OF 5½%.

Basildon Council are prepared to accept loans in multiples of £100 for periods of two to seven years at interest rates of 5½%, stated Councillor W.H. Davies J.P., Council Chairman at the Council Meeting on October 13th. He hoped that residents would follow the example of a resident who had lent £5,000 to the Council.

THE FAIR NAME OF BILLERICAY.

"There is a strong possibility that the Basildon U.D. will become a separate constituency before the next General Election", stated Councillor W.H. Davies, J.P., Council Chairman at the October 13th Council meeting. "I am sure we all want the constituency to have the fair name of Billericay", he added.

CHILDREN'S SEASON TICKET FOR FISHING TO BE ISSUED.

Basildon Council approved on October 13th the decision of the Parks Committee, following requests, that a children's season ticket for fishing be available at 10/6 each.

Also approved was the Parks Committee decision to alter the bye-law relating to angling, which at present allows all fish of above a certain size to be taken away. The new bye-law requires all fish to be returned to the water with as little damage as possible. The reason for the alteration is that an Angler using Lake Meadows had drawn attention to the necessity of preserving as many large fish as possible for breeding purposes.

NEW PLAYING FIELDS LAND.

Basildon Council are to buy 6.85 acres of land at the rear of New Lodge Hospital, Billericay for playing field facilities.

RADIOGRAPHERS HOUSING TO BE LOOKED INTO.

Despite opposition by the Council's Labour Group Basildon Council are to look into the question of the housing of radiographers near St. Andrew's Hospital.

Councillor A.P. Phelps said that it was his view that the radiographers should be re-housed in Billericay. He said that essential staff should be in easy reach of the hospital in case of an emergency, in which minutes in getting from Basildon could mean loss of lives.

Basildon Council rent arrears are 20% down on last year.

DEVELOPMENT MAP TO BE MADE.

Basildon U.D. Council are preparing from the recent aerial survey of the area a large scale map to facilitate the formulation of detailed proposals for development control.

REVISED HIRE CHARGES FOR BOATS.

Basildon Council approved on October 13th the new charges for Lake Meadows Boating Lake. 2/6d. per person, per hour, adults, 1/- per hour for each extra adult and 6d. for extra child. For one boat for twenty-five minutes, children, One child, 1/-, (11d.), Two children, 1/3, (1/2), Three children, 1/6, (1/5).

The number of boats is to be extended from 35 to 50, and the children's boating pool is to be extended by moving the boom down the lake and the adult landing stage. The proprietor has been granted permission to keep a small motor boat for personal use.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

We would like to make it quite clear that we do not print only political and 'residents' news. Our aim is to publish all Billericay news.

The "Janus" article has ended. The views of "Janus" article always brought much comment from readers, some favourable, some not. However readers demanded more local news and during the past month with a spurt of local news "Janus" has had the space allocated cut down. "Janus" feels she can no longer write under these conditions. I'm sure you will join me in wishing her good luck and health in the future.

Let it be made quite clear that the "Observer" is non-profit making. Furthermore, the Editor had to pay a £20 bill for the duplicator out of his own pocket.

Press Cuttings. These are available for all items in the "Billericay Observer". With plain backs they are available free of charge to organisations or individuals. Trouble? They're the sheets which haven't printed on one side!

Letters. These are very welcome. Often readers have views on particular subjects. By writing to the "Observer" you will get your views known, something may come of it and it may start an interesting exchange of letters.

W. GRANT - EDITOR

CIRCULATION 340 - 1,600 READERS

DOUBLE BARGAIN OFFER - FOR SALE.

Hardly used football boots and gym shoes - 10/- for both. APPLY TO OFFICE PAIRS

TWO MORE ENDEAVOUR PRIZES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS.

Reading the Secretary's Annual Report at the Annual General Meeting of Billericay Secondary School Parent/Teachers Association Mr K. P. Howard stated that in the past year the Association had provided two more endeavour prizes bringing the number up to six. The Association had also given £13 - 13 - 0 towards the cost of external examinations for children taking the extended course. Referring to the Swimming Pool, Mr. Howard said that the concrete base had been completed and work had now started on the walls. Billericay Round Table had set themselves a target of £2,000 to raise for the pool by holding a series of functions. Attendance at meetings could be improved - about 100 people belonged to the Association and there were 1,000 parents.

Officials for the coming year were elected.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - ASSOCIATION ARE DOING THEIR BEST.

The monthly meeting of the Sunnyville Residents' Association held on October 15th at Buttsbury School that the Association was doing its best in the fight to prevent the industrialization of Billericay and that the Association would fight to the last. Members were told that a petition was being organised by the Billericay Residents' Association regarding the industrialization.

DEFERRED....

by Basildon Council. An application by the boats proprietor for permission to live on the boathouse premises during the summer season.

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O.A.P's.
14th October.

Mr W. Joseph presided. Mr. Shaw and Mrs. Horsley were welcomed back after illness. Mr. Hutton, who was still away sick was about the same and there was a slight improvement in Mrs. Haynes. The sick members were all wished a very speedy recovery. Two new members were given a very cordial welcome. The Hunwell Revellers Concert Party accorded a good afternoon's entertainment. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Spencer, Wakeling, Cayser, and August.

21st October.

There was a very good attendance. Mr W. Joseph presided. The Chairman in his remarks spoke of the passing of an old member with deep regret and a minutes silence was observed for Mr. Hutton. He was in his 81st year and had been ill for some time. He also stated that Mr. Hutton was being interred at Ilford Cemetery on Monday at 11 a.m. He also reported that Mr. Gill was in hospital and though still very ill, was holding his own at present. All members wished him a speedy recovery. Members were entertained by Cicely Wardle's Concert Party from Rochford, and gave a grand afternoon's entertainment. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Spencer, Wakeling, Cayser, and August.

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CHURCH SERVICES: Communion; 1st. Sunday in month. Evensong; 3.30 p.m. except 1st. Sunday in month.
YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP: Oct 27th 8 to 9 p.m., Speaker; Miss D. Hodges, Women's Chief Police Inspector, Chelmsford. November 10th 2 to 3 p.m. Meetings held at Christ Church.

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THE BILLERICAY STORY

by Ha/Ri.
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2nd series.

CHAPTER 3 - THE ROMANS IN BILLERICAY.

After giving the Trinovantes assistance against their enemies, the Belgae, in 54 B.C., the Romans departed for another hundred years.

On their return they crossed the Thames by the even then ancient route at Tilbury, this time to help Cunobelin against his brother Caractacus who occupied the throne at what is now Colchester. They established a military station at Billericay for the Ninth Legion whose headquarters were at Colchester, and this seems to have been on a site on the east side of our High Street behind the houses between Crown Road and Chantry Chase, where there are distinct signs of a deep moat and rampart possibly originating from an even earlier period and re-used by the Romans with necessary alterations to suit their own needs. The legendary approach to this stronghold is said to have been the present drive at the side of Dr. Rilstone's house; certainly many Roman coins have been found in the grounds over a period of years.

Mr. J. A. Sparvel-Bavly F.S.A. who lived at Burghstead Lodge, wrote in 1878 that the "great number of internments and great and frequent discovery of tiles in Billericay" persuaded him that, "it was not only a very early settlement but also that it was a numerous populated one. Morant says that "Hereabouts unquestionably was some Roman villa or little station; for at Blunts Walls (in Great Burstead) are earthworks, the remains of a ditch and rampart containing about four acres, and within the enclosure hath been some mounds artificially raised, now chiefly levelled". Of these remains none remained even in 1878. Camden, another famous historian once thought this to have been the Roman Caeseromagus, but the site of that place has now almost certainly identified as Baulsham.

Roman remains have been found scattered over a wide area of our district, usually about 2 - 3 ft. below the surface, but sometimes very much lower, the most prolific sites being the high ground south of the town from Mill Meadows across to Laindon Road and to the north of the High Street, in the Hospital grounds and in Norsey Road and adjoining woods.

Both areas appear to have been Burial Grounds, Urns on the Secondary School site dating from the late occupation period. A fragment of an Urn was found in a garden in Crays View, a few years ago, and others in a garden in School Road and a meadow near Little House, Laindon Road.

Roman-British Potteries have been identified in Norsey Wood, and some fragments of this date were dug up in a garden in St. Agnes Road, Great Burstead recently and will be seen in the new Billericay Museum. The grounds of Foxcroft, between High Street and Chapel Street, and the gasworks in Laindon Road have both yielded relics and, about 1914 one or two Roman tiles were found by the brook in Queens Park near the spot where there was formerly a narrow footbridge, which was removed when the Estate was divided up for development purposes.

The very large number of burials discovered proves that there must have been a large population in Roman Billericay and it seems strange that no remains of their homes have ever come to light. Perhaps Bodicea had something to do with this when, at the head of her own people, the Iceni, and the disaffected Trinovantes she swept through the Roman provinces burning and destroying everything in her path - or it maybe that we have not yet discovered the exact position of the actual township, or have not gone quite deep enough. Even the rebuildings in the High Street have only just scratched the surface of the ground and given no chance of even the smallest discovery.

Even the smallest fragment of pottery found in one of the new gardens of our housing estates should be treated with suspicion and brought to the notice of our new museum, for who knows it MIGHT be the missing link to this part of the Story of Billericay.

The new Perry St. Bus Service proposed to start by the end of the year will run at frequencies of every half-hour for most of the day between Monday and Saturday and hourly for most of the day on Sundays. Sunnyside Residents' Association were told at their meeting on October 15th.

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