

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24th, 1959.

EDITOR WYNEFORD P. GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 42. PRICE 1+6.

LOCAL SCHOOLS ACCOMMODATION "SOMETHING HAS GOT TO BE DONE" SAYS COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

Speaking about the new Basildon U.D. Council Education Committee, at the Council's November 19th. meeting, Mrs C.J. Gadson, Vice-Chairman of the Council and Planning Committee chairman said: "Something has got to be done about schools accommodation in Billericay and Wickford. She continued, "Billericay has only one school planned for, on which work is due to start in 1960/61/62, which will be completed about 1965/6. It is intended that when it is complete it will be shared by Billericay and Wickford".

Basildon Council has appointed an Education Committee consisting of Councillors Mrs. Barton, Davies, Mrs. Gadson, Phelps and Stone plus the Chairman of the Finance Committee, as an ex-officio member. Councillor R. R. Gaywood). The terms of reference of the Committee are that it will maintain a general oversight of the educational facilities provided or to be provided in the Urban District and to deal with all matters relating to the delegation of education functions.

It is proposed that the Committee remain until the Council take over their delegated education functions in April, 1961.
COUNCIL MOVE-OVER FIXED.

Basildon Council are moving to temporary office accommodation in Basildon Town Centre, from the present separate Billericay offices on 29th March, 1960, pending the erection of the Municipal Offices. The Council are setting up a committee to deal with the moving.

CHURCH IS £800 IN THE RED.

Opening St. Burstead Church Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 21st November at the South Green Memorial Hall the Rev. G. R. Holley, Vicar said that although now the restoration of the church roof was complete, the Church were £800 "in the red" as a result of this. It was hoped that the bazaar would raise one-eight. Friends and church organisations manned the stalls.

CIVIC TRUST WANT TO ARCHITECTURAL TREATMENT OF HIGH STREET BUT COUNCIL SAY NO.

Basildon Council have told the big, national organisation, the Civic Trust, that they cannot give architectural treatment to Billericay High Street.

At the Council's 5th. November Planning Committee meeting the Clerk reported upon the outcome of a visit by Col. Post of the Civic Trust, to Billericay to discuss the possibility of special treatment of Billericay High Street. In Norwich the Trust had co-operated with the local authority, local traders' associations and individual shopkeepers and the result had been an improvement in the amenity and appearance of Magdalen Street, which was considered to be of outstanding architectural interest. The Trust, had, after consultation with Essex County Council, Billericay had been selected as one of a number of further towns for consideration for similar treatment. Members of the Council felt that Billericay High Street was not suitable for such treatment as only a small number of buildings in the High Street were buildings listed as being of historic and architectural interest, and these were not grouped together but scattered up and down the street. It was likely that some of the buildings, especially those unlisted, would eventually be pulled down and rebuilt, although every effort would be made to encourage developers to build in conformity with the character of the High Street in accordance with the Council's policy therefor. The Committee decided that whilst the Council appreciated the Civic Trust's interest and suggestions for the maintenance of the High Street's architectural standard, they did not think that the special treatment would be applicable in Billericay.

CINEMA DIARY,

RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL ST., BILLERICAY.

Prices: 3/-, 2/6, 2/-, 1/6, 1/9.

Monday November 23rd. Three Days.

"LOOK BACK IN ANGER", (X), from the violent play by John Osborne.

Thursday November 26th. Three Days.

"ALIVE AND KICKING" is a charming, amusing story, (U), of three old ladies, very friendly with each other and living at an old ladies home discover they are to be separated. They decide to run away and have some exciting and amusing adventures which end in them landing on an island off the Irish mainland. They discover three deserted cottages but these belong to an American man who, however, has a heart attack and apparently falls into the sea. They organise the islanders into a jumper-knitting industry, then the American's solicitor becomes suspicious. The story has an exciting, astounding, and amusing conclusion. Starring, Sybil Thorndike, Kathleen Harrison, and Stanley Holloway.

Monday November 31st. Three Days.

Ingrid Bergman, Curt Jurgens, in "THE INN OF THE SIXTH HAPPINESS". This is a story of an Englishwoman who determines to go to China as a missionary even though she is not qualified. At first the townspeople insult and call her "a foreign devil". When her co-missionary is killed she continues with the work of the Inn despite the fact that Lin Nan, an Eurasian Chinese Army officer implores with her to return to England. In an effort to end what he believes is her 'meddling' the town's Mandarin gives her the arduous task of Foot Inspector. Then the Japanese invade China. Then Gladys begins her long trek with hundred children over the mountains, with barely any food, and the enemy to contend with, to safety. There are many other adventures in this colourful, oriental film.

Thursday December 6th. Three Days.

James Kenney, Susan Beaumont, in "NO SAFETY AHEAD". This is a story of a young man working in an office on a small salary, is tempted by the possibility of quick riches and falls in with a gang of bank robbers. In the robbery the bank manager is killed and Clem, the young man, flees with police and crooks, frightened that he will squeal after him.

ROUND AND ABOUT

BY
"WANDERER".

Basildon Council must be praised for their action of establishing and the sentiments expressed by Councillor Mrs. Gadson were true and worthy ones. With 1,600 children under five in Billericay there is a definite need for a new Primary School on modern lines, a large one, with large and adequate room for expansion and playing fields. Part of the Industrial Estate is the only, suitable central site - and we must have a central primary school - but our planners have put that down for factories for Basildon people, as in the present factories, to come to.

The Councils turning down of the Civic Trust's offer was wrong, because such treatment is necessary and would improve the High Street. When the Council are next doing their 'planning' they should remember that a town with an attractive High Street, no ugly Industrial Estates and attractive housing estates and openspaces is of higher value than a shoddy, ordinary one.

It now appears that the Industrial Estate, to the main, will now not be screened despite verbal and written promises. At the Protest Meeting the Councillors forgot that they had recently passed 6 factories also, a few weeks ago the Council made an official denial of any likelihood of building on the Queens Park Estate. Yet it now appears that such building may shortly commence. To their credit, the Council have called a Press Conference for next Saturday. One of the items is Amenity Provision and after the conference it is to be hoped that we shall know the Council's intentions.

Following a strong letter from the Billericay Residents Assoc, Basildon Council have placed a lamp at the place where Long Meadow Path crosses the Industrial Estate, saving many muddy feet. Let's hope the Council keeps it up and provides more lamps in badly-lit footpaths and roads, especially those oft-used.

Re rail services. WHEN is work going to start on Billericay Station Improvements. i.e. Widening of entrance and exit systems? A year ago it was promised that work would start this March! Something must be done urgently! A suggestion for improving rush hour services - extend the trains and platforms to 10 or 12 coaches as on other regions -S ----- "WANDERER".

BAZAAR TARGET OF £500 - PROCEEDS TO CHURCH REPAIR FUND.

A Bazaar and Concert held by the Congregational Church at the Mayflower Hall on November 21st had a £500 target. Proceeds will go to the Church Repair Fund, eventual target £1,000 which will be used to repoint the church building and repair the windows. The Bazaar, attended by over 200 people was the first effort in aid of the Repair Fund.

Stalls were: Old Curiosity Shop, (Women's Guild), Books, (Mrs. Power & Miss Slater), Cakes and Table Decorations, (Choir), Toys and Bottle Stall, (Badminton Group), Fruit, Flowers, and Vegetables, (Mr. May and Mr. Hammond), Handkerchiefs and Home-Made Sweets, (Girls' Life Brigade), Needlework, (Young Wives), Pound Stall, (Sisterhood), Toilet Requisites, (Sunday School), White Elephant, (Women's Guild), Side-Shows, (Drama Group). The Concert included 13 varied items.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - ALL THE LATEST.

In an effort to find out the latest position regarding the fight of local residents' associations to prevent the erection of 40 factories on a site near Billericay Station the "Observer" interviewed Mr. J. E. Hillyard, Acting Secretary. Mr. Hillyard made the following statement: "The Residents' Association have circulated every local councillor as we were disturbed by their apparent lack of knowledge of the residents' feeling. Councillor Curtis (also an Essex County Councillor) has replied and a meeting has been arranged. We are going to retain the services of one of the country's most eminent planners in private practice. He will be asked to look into the whole background of the matter and report to the Residents Association Committee. The best case that can be put will then be put to the Ministry. Regarding screening of the factories verbal and written assurances have been given to the effect that the site would be well screened, but it has been finally admitted that there was never any such stipulation".

Commenting on the Industrial Estate, Mrs. C. J. Gadson, Councillor, Chairman, B. U. D. Council Planning Committee and Council Vice-Chairman stated that the matter would again be dealt with at the next Planning Committee, at Thursday's Council Meeting. She added, "Anybody coming to live here should have expected it".

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN CONFIRMS DECISION NO DELEGATE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

Councillor W. H. Davies, Chairman of Basildon U. D. Council, at last Thursday's Council Meeting confirmed the Council's decision not to have a Delegate Conference in 1960. (Included in this municipal year.

Councillor Davies was asked the following question by Councillor Dove, Leader of the Council's Labour Group: "In view of the public disquiet and unfavourable press reaction aroused by the Council's recent decision of not holding a Delegate Conference this municipal year, would the Chairman please consider exerting his influence upon the Council and prevail upon them to re-consider their decision, thus ensuring that the excellent public relations record heretofore held by the Council is regained.

Giving reasons for his refusal Councillor Davies said; "Owing to the fact that we have an organisation and methods survey on at present, that we have much preparation to do in connection with the delegation of Health, Highways, and Education, the move of administration to Basildon and finally, most important the decision of a previous Council which means that we cannot employ any more staff we feel that it would not be practicable to have a Delegate Conference this year".

"SAVE OUR MEADOWLAND" APPEAL.

Over 1,500 Billericay residents signed a petition at two stalls in Billericay High Street on Saturday November 14th supporting the decision of Basildon Council of refusing permission for Mr. Ward of Richmond, Surrey to build 4,000 houses on beautiful, undulating, wooded land between Bell Hill, Jacksons Lane, and Chapel Street, Billericay.

On Tuesday Mr. Hoy of Chapel Street, Billericay put the case against the development for the residents of Billericay at a Ministry of Housing & Local Government Public Enquiry.

The Editor spent some time at one of the petition stalls on the 14th. Among regular comments were "We want a bit of country somewhere" and "No more development". Many people rushed up thinking it was a petition against industrialization. The result of the enquiry will be published in the "Observer", when it is announced.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Let it be made quite clear that the "Billericay Observer" deals in every type of local news not only political. Fetes, bazaars, accidents, (when we hope not), local organisations are all included in the "Observer" if they are local news. Often most local news has some connection with politics. And of course with only one person, who has evenings and weekends, news is sometimes, but not often, unavoidably missed. I feel, that, as editor, the paper is of good standard. Time like money is a factor which prevents great circulation increases, but it is very satisfying to know that the circulation graph, always has and still is, showing a steady increase towards that 500 copies target. Several, including two sellers of the "Observer" have expressed the opinion that if the paper's present standard is maintained that should not be too difficult.

Now to the infamous Town Crier. We have written away for details of a cheaper method which might save as much as 12/-, but, as yet, have not received a reply. If it is not ready by Christmas I shall be very surprised. We also have some other plans, which are at present, however, on the 'secret list'.

W. Grant EDITOR
(AGE 12)

GARAGE TO LET. Phone Billericay IOI or apply to "Observer" office.
FOR SALE, Gents Dinner Suit in good condition - £7. Phone Billericay IOI or apply to "Observer" office for further details.

'X' SOLD A SCOOTER THROUGH "OB" 6d
SMALL ADS. FOR SALE, WANTED, THE LOT.

TOC H.

A meeting to form a Toc H Branch in Billericay held last Friday at Billericay Recreation Rooms was very poorly attended. It has been decided to have another attempt at forming a branch and a meeting has been fixed for Friday (27th November) at 7.45 at the Recreation Rooms, Billericay. (near Barclays Bank, almost opposite the church).

It is hoped that there will be a better response and that enough will attend to form a branch in Billericay to carry out the excellent, voluntary work, based on Christian principles Toc H does.

YOUNG LIBERAL GROUP IS FORMED.

The inaugural meeting of the Billericay Young Liberal Group was held on 10th November.

The large number who joined indicates the interest of the young people of the area in the liberal movement. Regular meetings started on November 23rd (yesterday, when a beetle drive was held) and they will be held fortnightly.

All those under 35 who are interested should apply to Mrs. M. Wood, "The Lygon", 9, Fairfield Rise, Billericay.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING APPROVED.

The Pedestrian Crossing in Billericay High Street has been approved and orders for the equipment have been placed.

Basildon Council Planning Committee have deferred consideration of an application by Harris, Bros of an outline application for a petrol pump, washing bay, and greasing bay in Station Approach, Billericay.

CALL AT "MATTHEWS" 27 HIGH
ST. FOR THE LARGEST RANGE
OF ALL LEADING MAKES OF
CONFECTIONERY
A GOOD SELECTION OF GIFT
BOXES ALWAYS
AVAILABLE
"NEILSONS" ICE CREAM

LET POLY ARRANGE YOUR HOLIDAY

Summer or Winter, in Britain or on the Continent, Poly Travel offer the finest selection and best values in holidays.

See for yourself how inexpensive a fully inclusive holiday can be. Write or 'phone Poly for your free copies of these wonderful holiday programmes:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| POLY HOLIDAYS | - Full details of Poly's holidays on the Continent. |
| BRITISH PROGRAMME | - Holidays in Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales and the Channel Islands. |
| WINTER SPORTS | - Selected resorts for the novice or experienced sports enthusiast. |
| WINTER SUNSHINE | - Winter holidays in the sun to suit all pockets, all tastes. |
| HOLIDAYS AT SEA | - Combined land-sea holidays and cruises. |

POLY TRAVEL LIMITED, 309, REGENT STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

Telephone: GERRARD 6979.

O. A. P's

At the 11th November meeting of Billericay O. A. P's held at the Rose Hall Mr T. Hopkins (Vice-Chairman) presided in the absence of Mr W. Joseph (Chairman) who was out with the Concert Party. 92 members were present, an excellent attendance. Mr Hopkins reported on sick members. He said that Mr. Gill was coming out of hospital tomorrow, though still very ill, but slowly improving. Mrs Speller was also still very ill though there was a slight improvement. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery. The Secretary, in his report, read out several letters, including a 5/- donation from an anonymous member and a £2.14.0. donation from Billericay Bowling Club, who was a member of such club and the O. A. P's. Miss Lawson and her Scotch Dancers gave fine entertainment.

18th November.

Mr W. Joseph presided. He asked for reports on any sick members including Mr. Riches (Secretary). Mr. Dawkins, (Assistant Secretary) then read correspondence. There was a very good attendance. Entertainment was given by Mrs. Matthews Westcliff Concert Party. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Green, Roberts, Pearce, and Prince.

CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET

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

YOUNG WIVES FELLOWSHIP: November 24th 8 to 9 p.m., December 7th, 2 to 3 p.m. All meetings held at Christ Church.

BILLERICAY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting
to be held

at the
W. I. HALL, BILLERICAY on
Monday November 30th, 1959.
Commencing 7.45 sharp.

NO TO ADVERTISEMENT SIGN.

Basildon Council approved last Thursday the decision of the Planning Committee to refuse permission to erect an advertisement sign at Laylands, 70, High Street, Billericay. The reason given was that an illuminated advertisement of the type and size envisaged could not fail to have a detrimental effect on the general character and appearance of Billericay High Street.

The Council also approved the Committee's decision to serve notice on the owners and occupiers of "Claremont", High Street to remove two advertisement notices, erected without planning permission.

STOP PRESS.

THE BILLERICAY STORY

CHAPTER 5 - DANES & NORMANS.

by Ha/ri.
2nd series.
Copyright.

In 892 A.D. new invaders - this time the Danes - arrived from the Continent.

After establishing their Headquarters at Shoebury, these Danes forced their way through Essex and along the Thames, getting as far as the Severn where they were defeated and had to return again to Shoebury. They also occupied Mersey Island, and had a fort at South Benfleet where they were attacked by the Saxons about the year 893 A.D. This attack is described in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle where it is stated that the Danes were defeated and their ships burned on the spot, the truth of this being established by the discovery of various relics of the fight when the present railway station was built in the last century.

For many years, however, the struggle went on, and it was not until 991 A.D. that the famous Battle of Maldon took place, and 1016 that "all the nobility of the English race was destroyed" at Ashington where Canute founded a church to commemorate the event.

Billericay then was "in the thick" of all this disturbance, but life still went on and we can imagine the little groups of huts - for the cottages of that time were no more than that - near the village church and manor houses, with the areas of Strip Cultivation among the open common ground and wooded tracts, both very much more extensive than now. Our small town straggled along the hilltop by the ancient road from Tilbury to Maldon and Bradwell then the three main centres of Christianity in this part of the country.

When the Normans arrived in 1066 the local manors were still held by Saxons who were soon to be dispossessed though in some cases they remained as tenants of the new owners. Some of their names sound queerly in our ears, but we can imagine them going about their affairs in our neighbourhood all those centuries ago, in houses on the sites of those existing today. At Mountnessing (Hall) were the three ladies Ingwar, Alfega, and Algar, and at Crowbridge a man named Alwin. Not far off at Hutton was a certain Got, and at Cinga, which we know better as Buttsbury lived Bond.

At Burstead the Saxon Ingar was displaced and his property passed to no less a person than the half brother of William the Conqueror, the great Bishop Odo who held vast possessions in various parts of the country. Bishop Odo chose Burstead as his Chief, or Capital Manor in Essex, although he had other manors in Barstable, Basildon, Wickford, Vange, Warley, South Hanningfield, Horndon-on-the Hill, and Ramsden.

Some of the earliest work at Great Burstead Church can be traced to the time of Bishop Odo, who was possibly responsible for replacing the earlier wooden building by something more substantial and more suited to the new order of things. It is quite likely that he sometimes actually watched the craftsmen at their work, and perhaps offered advice and suggestions as the building proceeded.

This is not as far fetched as it might sound, because Odo's chief residence and Headquarters was Rochester Castle sometimes known as "The Castle of Count Odo", and certainly the easiest and quickest route from there to his possessions in the north was by Gravesend and Tilbury, and so to his chief manor in Essex at Burstead on the site of the present Grange Farm near the Church.

----- CONSIDERATION REGARDING NEW BILLERICAY BOWLING GREEN.

Basildon Council approved on Thursday the decision of the Parks Committee to, when considering the annual 1960/61 financial estimates, give consideration for the inclusion of a capital item for the bowling green at Lake Meadows to be converted from a four rink green to a six rink green and the existing area re-surfaced. The Committee also decided that the restoration work, at present taking place, to improve playing conditions be continued.

Basildon Council have appointed a committee to approve one of two estimates for a chain of silver gilt, in place of the present frayed blue ribbon, for the Chairman's badge of office.

Printed & Published by the "Billericay Observer, 143, Perry Street,
Billericay, Essex.