

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22nd, 1959.

TOWN TRAFFIC PROBLEM:-CHAPEL ST.ALTERATIONS

COUNCIL'S DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS



The Council are also expected to approve the Committee's suggestion that the Church end of Chapel Street, where there is a very narrow entrance into High Street, Billericay, be provided with carriageway markings to indicate the traffic lanes which will assist the police at this point during peak traffic flows.

A Committee, with representatives from all local interested organisations, was formed at a meeting held at Billericay Secondary School last Monday week to co-ordinate the local World Refugee Year effort. The World Refugee Year ends in May next year.

STOCK ROAD LIGHTING SOON.

Basildon Council are being recommended by their Works Committee to accept a tender the 'A' Sodium Group Lighting of Stock Road, Billericay, (B 1007) and Southend Rd. Wickford, (A 129).

SECLUSION AND QUIETNESS OF ROAD
WOULD BE SHATTERED IF ROAD WAS
MADE UP SAY ANGRY RESIDENTS.

Their letter reads:-

1. Many of us cannot afford the cost.

2. It would transform the Drive from its present quiet, rural character into a busy, noisy thoroughfare and perhaps become a "round-the-houses" course for motor-bicycles.

3. We would have no power to prevent car-parking in the summer along the road for those wishing to visit Lake Meadows and our seclusion and quietness would be shattered.

We therefore think it most unfair that we should be asked to pay large sums of money to destroy our own amenities, purely because the Council wish to build a link road for other people".

The Council have replied to the effect that they will consider the matter at their 14th January Council Meeting.

The fact that Billerica Residents Association are fighting the erection of 40 factories on land near Billerica Station did not mean that the Association were against local employment stated a spokesman for Billerica Residents Association on Friday.

The spokesman continued, "The Petition has got off to a fine start, having collected so far (on Friday) 500 signatures in the Buttsbury Ward, in a matter of a few days."

CONTINUED PAGE 3.

CINEMA DIARY, RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET, BILLERICAY, Phone: 259.
Prices; 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6, and 3/-.

Monday December 21st. Three Days.

Richard Todd, Betsy Drake in "INTENT TO KILL", (A). Also "WHITE WITCH DOCTOR", (U).
Christmas Eve. (Thursday). and Boxing Day. (Saturday). Closes for Christmas Day.

"TEN TALL MEN", (U) is a stirring story of 10 legionaires who attack a city. The film is set among the romance of the desert and is ideal for the family. (U). "ROGUES OF SHERWOOD FOREST", Robin Hood's son lives on in his father's tradition in this family film.
Monday December 28th. Three Days.

KENNETH MOORE, Taina Elg in (U) in the thrilling, mysterious, humoresque "39 STEPS". Also "NO ROOM FOR WILD ANIMALS", (U).

Thursday December 31st. Three Days.
Curt Jurgens in "FERRY TO HONG KONG", (U). Also "WINTER QUARTERS", (U).

COUNCIL TAKE TOUGH LINE ON COMMUNAL BIN SITES LITTER.

Notices have been placed at all communal refuse bin sites in the Urban District drawing attention to the proper use of the bins and the requirements of the Litter Act, 1958.

The bins are provided for refuse, such as tins and bottles, that cannot be destroyed by burning or compositing, and are for the use of residents of unmade roads only. All such refuse must be placed inside the bins.

It is an offence under the Litter Act to deposit and leave refuse on the ground or in the roadway, for which the maximum penalty is £10. The Council are concerned that these communal bin sites be kept tidy and wish to make it known that it is their intention to enforce the provisions of the Act in this respect.

(Advt.). STAMP COLLECTORS who want PEN FRIENDS in other countries should join the "World Association of Young Stamp Collectors", Life Membership 5/- for all ages (Children and adults). Apply to the Hon. Sec., 59, York Street, Twickenham, Middlesex.

NEXT "OBSERVER" WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, JANUARY, 1960.

ROUND AND ABOUT
by
"WANDERER".

It is obvious from the alterations that Basildon Council are carrying out on Chapel Street that they have no intention to make it a one-way street for the next five years. Let us hope that the new alterations will lessen the danger of walking or driving in Chapel St. Let us also hope that the new Car Park between the Library and Grove's will be opened shortly. Although, in my and others opinion it is not an ideal site, the sooner it is opened the sooner the rows of parked cars in the High Street will grow smaller. My complaints? Not large enough, dangerous entrance, and not in the most suitable position.

The new BILLERICAY TOWN BUS SERVICE started on Sunday. It runs from Perry Street (Orchard Avenue) to Gooseberry Green and London Road, to the High Street and thence to the Sunnymede and Outwood Common estates via Jacksons Lane. As a general rule it starts from Perry Street (Weekdays) at 6 and 36 mins., reaches the town at 14 and 44, leaves at 16 and 46 and arrives at Outwood Common at 27 and 57. From Outwood Common 9 and 39, it will arrive at the High Street at 20 and 50 and Perry Street at 30 and 0. On Sundays and Bank Holidays it will run at 6 from Perry Street and 39 from Outwood Common. There are some small variations. The Editor travelled on the 10.6. from Perry Street on Sunday and reported that a total of 7 passengers used it there and back. The E.N. Inspector on the bus thought that people did not know about the bus and would use it more when they did. I agree! And it will be a great help - there are two old ladies who have not seen the High Street in the three years they have lived in Billericay and will now be able to quite regularly.

Mr EdD. Hellyer of Hill House Drive has sent me a letter from the Engineer & Surveyor in reply to a query of Mr. Hellyer regarding the state of Long Meadow Path, where it crosses the Industrial Estate.

The Engineer & Surveyor states that the Developers have been most co-operative over the matter, under the supervision of his staff. As long as they continue to clean up and reinstate the footpath after each day's work nothing further can be done.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! - "Wanderer".

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - RESIDENTS' FIGHT
Continued from Page I.

"It should be clearly known and appreciated that the Residents Association are not against local employment - in fact they have supported it throughout. The whole point of their campaign is to stress that the site should be carefully and attractively developed and that the type of work made available should be that which would find the largest amount of potential labour and not serve the interests of the minority.

The Residents Association have met the Ministry of Housing & Local Government in the past week but nothing further can be said about the very lengthy discussion that took place until the situation has been carefully considered by the Ministry".

ELECTRICITY BOARD HOPE BILLERICAY CONSUMERS WILL HAVE NO FURTHER CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT.

In reply to a query from the Billericay Residents' Association regarding the persistent electricity failures the Eastern Electricity Board in an informative letter stated that they had been carrying out many major works in the district which should improve the situation.

The letter continues; "The interruptions which have taken place have been due to a variety of causes over which we have no control, such as, damage to underground cables by mechanical plant, cranes fouling overhead lines, vehicles hitting overhead line poles etc. and whilst every effort is made to safeguard our plant the large amount of development in the area has resulted in some damage to our equipment.

In view of the work which we have recently carried on the distribution system, I confidently expect that our consumers in Billericay will find that the position is improved and I trust they will have no further cause for complaint in this respect.

3 more classrooms are to be built at Buttsbury School, Perry Street in 1961/62.

PICTORIALS FOR BRIGHTER BRITAIN CAMPAIGN. (Advt.). Write now to your M.P. and the Postmaster General. Details from Campaign HQ (if a stamped addressed envelope enclosed) - 15, Newlands Road, Tunbridge, Wells, Kent.

LETTERS.

BILLERICAY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

The following letter is from a local resident of some standing and importance;

Dear Sir,

It is interesting to note that the Basildon U.D.C. have appointed a Publicity Officer in an effort to attract industrialists to the Wickford Industrial Estate after many years of poor interest. This mind you after putting through a road and sewers at the ratepayer's expense which still failed to draw a response.

It is perhaps food for thought that the Developers at Billericay might also find some difficulty in developing the whole industrial site.

The Basildon U.D.C. state that they are looking to the new factories to provide local employment, ease travel congestion, and give better scope to school leavers. But surely it is wrong for the complete area to be given over to factories when the majority of working residents are not artisans. It would seem that the majority are to be sacrificed to the minority as there will be very little hope of 'administrative' people getting a job. School leavers will have the choice of factories or shops. As most travellers are City bound the effect on congestion will be negligible.

The use of this site - or the major part of it - for commercial purposes would have served the community far better. The Council would have benefited by a much higher income from rates, (the new factories will get a 50% reduction in rates) and the site would have been laid out in a much more attractive fashion. The Developers would surely have profited more by building office or administrative buildings of say the two-storey type.

The demand for commercial building in this area is questionable, but judging from Wickford so is that of factories. Could not the Publicity Officer serve two purposes obtaining commercial enquiries and passing them on to the Developers?

Furthermore, should the developers find difficulty in selling their factories - being speculators - they would build only as and when required. What would have to the new Link Road? Would this be completed? Is it too late for a word in the developer's ear? - A. RESIDENT.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS.

EDITOR'S NOTES

On the front page of this "Billericay Observer" is a town crier - the long-awaited-for "Observer" emblem. We hope it is not upside down etc., for this is our electronic stencil. In addition to the Town Crier we have attractive headings for "Editor's Notes", "Billericay Observer", "Billericay Story", "Through the Post", "Wanderer", "Cinema Diary", "Sport", "Small Ads" and a telephone. This will be introduced gradually, and we hope that you will like them.

We cannot give individual Christmas gifts to our many hundreds of readers. However, I, as Editor can offer a collective one. That is, a general improvement in the standards of the paper, during 1960.

To detail our plans. We hope to improve further on the amount of news. In the past year we have printed more Billericay news than any other local paper and have obtained a number of important scoops. During the past few months we have doubled our news coverage and we shall continue to do so. It is not intended, either, that we shall print a string of local politics in boring fashion. We also intend to make further improvements in neatness and a large improvement in spelling. It is intended to extend the duplicating Branch of the paper (3/6 made in last fortnight) and the Extra Literature Branch, in an effort to raise money.

W.P. GRANT (AGE 12) EDITOR.

FORDS £50 CHRISTMAS GIFT TO OLD
PEOPLE.

Last year the Ford Motor Company, instead of sending Christmas Cards to their many friends, decided that they would make gifts to needy folk in areas where they had special ties. The Company have again decided to take similar action this year and have made a kind gesture in forwarding the Chairman of Basildon Council a cheque for £50 for distribution with their good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to some elderly people of restricted means, particularly those living alone or on a small pension, who reside in the Urban District.

The Chairman of the Council has passed the gift to the District Old Peoples' Welfare Committee for distribution.

BILLERICAY MOTOR CLUB DRIVING TEST.

There was a very good entry for the club's Winter Driving Test held last Sunday week on the undeveloped, private roads at the Walthamstow estate, Billericay. Winners; Class A was Mrs P. Smith Morris Minor 1000, Class B was Mrs S. Goss, Wolseley 1500, Class C P. Johnson, Ford Consul, Class D, C. Ahrens, Ford 10 Special. The fastest time was set up in the Ford 10 Special, built by C. Ahrens. After the tests were completed there was a demonstration of Go Karting.

The Club held last Tuesday at the Duke's Head, Laindon Common a Tramps Supper, attended by some 40 members and friends. Mr W. Dixon Jnr. was judged best man tramp and Mrs. I. Beadle, (the president's wife) best lady tramp.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR
SHOWROOM, FOR YOUR XMAS
GIFT BOXES, AND NOVELTIES
FROM 3d TO £3

MATTHEW'S

25/27 HIGH ST.

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 --- DECEMBER 9th.

Mr W. Joseph presided. There was an excellent attendance of 104 members. Members who had been away ill - Mrs. F. Smith, Mrs. Kitzell, and Mrs. Walledge, were given a very cordial welcome back. Birthday honours were accorded Mr. Shiner, now 76. Miss Martin entertained with a talk on her travels in Mexico and Texas. Tea Hostesses; Mesdames Collins, Rackham, Canner, and August.

XMAS PARTY.

A record attendance of 110 members at the 16th December Xmas Party of Billericay O.A.P.'s. Present were Mrs C. Law, M.B.E., J.P. President, Mrs C. Gunter J.P., Vice-President, Miss Kidner, Essex Old People's Welfare, and Mrs. Norton of the Essex W.V.S. Mrs G. Clarke was welcomed back after a bad accident. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Lee, (now 90), Mrs. Sippitt and Mr. Plumridge. Songs and games were much enjoyed, Mr. H. Dawkins being the M.C. and Mrs Dawkins the Pianist. At the conclusion a Lantern parade was performed by some of the members who sung several carols. Gifts were given to every Member of the Branch by Mrs. Law, which were provided from branch funds. Some free Gift Vouchers were generously given by Mr. Matthews, Confectioner etc., of the High Street. Tea hostesses were the W.V.S., Chapel Street. The party ended with "Auld Lang Syne".

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; December 22nd 8 to 9 p.m., December 29th, 2 to 3 p.m. All meetings held at Christ Church.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

"QUEENS PARK STORES"
111, PERRY ST., BILLERICAY.
HIGH CLASS GROCERY AND PROVISIONS.
XMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL
OUR CUSTOMERS.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

H. HATCHER & CO.
JOINERY - TIMBER - PORTABLE BUILDINGS,
-----Phone Bill:-I366-----
PERRY ST., BILLERICAY.
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR
CUSTOMERS.

SMALL ADS ----- FOR SALE.
COVERS for sale. Brit. Empire Games (cat. 5/-), only 3/6. G.B. Coronation set mint, (cat. over 11/-) only 6/6.
BARGING FOR STAMP COLLECTORS!
Christopher Phillips, 15, Newlands Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

THE BILLERICAY STORY

CHAPTER 7 - A CHRISTMAS SUBJECT - BILLERICAY
INNS AND HOSTELERIES AND THEIR TRADE.

by Ha/Rd.
2nd series.
Copyright.

The murder of Thomas a Beckett in his own cathedral in Canterbury took place in 1172, and shortly afterwards began the long succession of Pilgrimages to his tomb, which were a feature of British life for nearly three centuries, until the Reformation, and Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII.

Although we tend to associate Pilgrims with the 'Canterbury Tales' and the Tabard Inn at Southwark, not all of them would go through London but would take the shorter routes from their home towns, and many people like those described by Chaucer did, in fact, come through Billericay by way of the age old road to Tilbury, Gravesend, and Rochester. They would, many of them, stay overnight at one or other of the hosteleries in our town before proceeding in daylight along the rough, unmade tracks, which then formed our main roads, towards the next place of any size, which was Horndon-on-the-Hill.

We do not know for certain just what hosteleries there were in Billericay in the early days, but by the 16th. century there were The Lion, Crowne, and Foxes, mentioned by name, and another which appears to be The Bull. Of these the first still occupies what the 1923 Report on Historic Monuments describes as a 'fragment of a 15th. century house', and is better known as 'The Red Line'. The second stood on the site stretching between Cottis's and the Council Offices, and extended at the back into Chapel Street. Portions of the outbuildings dating from the 16th. century still exist in the stables which we pass on our short cuts through the old Inn yard from the High Street to Chapel Street, by the 'Coach and Horses'. The archway under which we walk, is, in fact, the descendant of the archway of the Crown Inn, which remained on this site until the middle of the last century when it closed its doors, the licence being carried on by a Beerhouse, where now is the Pram Stores. The present Crown Hotel is a lineal descendant of the old Inn, and was built, when the railway was projected through Billericay at the end of the last century, by the licensee of the Beerhouse.

'The Foxes' stood just above the present Crown Hotel, as shown on the 1593 map but nothing further is known about it. There was a later 'Fox' Beerhouse on the site of the Co-operative Stores, and this could have been a descendant, especially as the writer has heard of an old 'Fox' which stood on the opposite side of the road. 'The Bull', sometimes known as 'Black Bull' still stands but has long been converted into the three shops of Egan Bro's, Taylor's, and Speed's Cafe. Much of the original still exists, although the building was refronted in brick whilst it was still an Inn, as can be seen in a photograph, taken about 1916, which is in the new Museum collection.

Another inn was the 'White Lyon' with extensive outbuildings, now Shelley's shops and residence, recently restored by its owner. Most of the outbuildings were demolished some years ago, owing to their bad state of repair, but under the modern facing of an exterior wall of the house are two-light windows of the 16th. Century like those on the front of the nearby Chantry House. A wallpainting of a Fleur-de-lis is behind a showcase of one of the shops - perhaps the old Inn's sign - and the fragments of another wallpainting can be seen by the reader in Billericay's new Museum in the new year. The 'White Lyon' was famous for its cherry orchard which is still to be seen, though now attached to another property.

Beside the usual hosteleries, of course, it is reasonable to suppose that after the founding of the Chapel and Chantry in 1342 the Priest would entertain his own guests in rooms attached to his Cell on the site of the Chantry House or, as some would have it, what is now the 'Chequers' backing on to the Chapel lands or farm.

If all this accommodation seems unnecessary for the Canterbury pilgrims likely to use the Billericay route, it must be remembered that there were also the ordinary travellers passing through or trading in the town, as well as the cross current of other pilgrims going in the opposite direction, not to Canterbury, but north to that other famous shrine at Walsingham.