

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8th, 1960.

EDITOR WYNFORD GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 73. PRICE 1½d.

RESIDENTS CRITICISE PHONE SERVICE - 4 MINUTES TO GET POLICE

It was decided at the Executive Committee Meeting of Billericay Residents' Association on Friday to complain to the telephone authorities about the delays in obtaining emergency services from private telephones. The matter was brought up by Mr. E. Lunt who said; "A little while ago there was an accident outside my house and the driver who caused the accident (with a bus) drove away. It took me four minutes to get through to the Police and about half-an-hour later a village policeman came cycling up, by which time the driver was miles away. Something should be done about this before it costs somebody a life or a home". Other members quoted similar examples and agreed with Mr. Lunt.

Mr. V. Ireland, Chairman of the Membership Sub-Committee, reported on the membership drive. Members were told that despite the fact that the weather had been against the Sub-Committee, 30 new members had been gained in the past month, making a total of 697. A trial run had been made on the Walthamstow Council Estate at Outwood Common had been made and they had a 85% response. Most of the people on the Estate were glad to see the canvassers as they felt a little out of things.

Mr. E. Lunt, Editor of the proposed Bulletin - the "Mayflower" - reported that work was going ahead, and it was hoped to produce the first issue on November 14th and 15th. The Bulletin would have six pages and a cover.

The General Purposes Sub-Committee reported that despite the fact that they were short of funds and things to sell the ladies were progressing with plans for the Bazaar to be held on December 3rd at the W.I. Hall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.



OYEZ, ALL THE
LOCAL NEWS.

LAKE EMERGENCY - ALL NIGHT VIGIL

Employees of Basildon Council, with the aid of arc lights, kept an all-night vigil on the Lake in Lake Meadows on Thursday and Friday Evenings following the recent heavy rains. It was feared that the Lake would spill over, or burst its steep southern and western banks sending thousands of gallons of water hurtling down on the housing estates in Lakeside, Atridge Chase, and Knightbridge Walk. The southern and western shores of the Lake were sandbagged by a team of workmen, and the banks held firm. However, a small landslide at the steepest part of the bank blocked the stream from the Lake, and this was cleared and deepened, so as to prevent flooding.

Buttsbury Ford, at Buttsbury Wash, on the road from Billericay to Ingatestone was impassable to vehicles and pedestrians last week owing to deep flood water.

COUNCIL WORRIED ABOUT VANDALISM.

At their recent meeting, Basildon Council's Health Committee gave consideration to the amount of damage caused by vandalism in public conveniences. So far this year, 70% of the cost of repairs and maintenance to public conveniences around the district has been caused by vandalism.

The Committee were extremely concerned at this trend, and have decided to offer a reward of £5 for any information leading to the conviction of persons found damaging the public conveniences. Notices detailing the reward and the penalty for the offence are to be erected in all conveniences.
MORE ABOUT VANDALISM ON PAGE 3.

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RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE.
Continued From Page I.

It was reported that the Eastern Electricity Board were to instal equipment to prevent voltage drop in The Rising area of Sunnymede, following representations from the Association.

It was stated that the Eastern National Bus Co. and British Railways had agreed to send a representative to the forthcoming Public Meeting on Transport.

It was agreed to affiliate to the Essex Federation of Ratepayer's and Kindred Associations.
"WHERE IS MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING?" ASK BUTTSBURY RESIDENTS.

Three out of the four demountable classrooms at Buttsbury County Primary School are now occupied. Whilst pleased to see them occupied Buttsbury Residents' Association are annoyed about the fact that this was done two months after the promised time. They are also concerned about the main project of permanent classrooms, assembly hall, and kitchens, which is due to start in this financial year. The copse on which it is to be built has not been cleared yet.

Among the items to be discussed at their meeting on 14th November are:- The future needs of Buttsbury Primary School; the Industrial Estate; Lake Meadows Car Parking on the Industrial Estate; road works at the Gooseberry Green/ Mountnessing Road junction; future social events.

It is understood by the "Observer" that there is some concern among residents at the northern end of Perry Street over the Council proposal to take the sewers in the Sewerage Scheme along the back gardens of some people's properties. No doubt the matter will be discussed at the meeting.

The following statement appears in the Association's Bulletin:- "There has been considerable correspondence with Councillors and the Council regarding the poor lighting and flooding of the Gooseberry Green-Station footpath. The latest letter suggests that the Council cannot do more to improve the surface of the footpath or even provide one extra lamp. This is considered unsatisfactory and the matter is being pursued."

ROUND AND ABOUT
by
"WANDERER".

I hope that something is done quickly about the private telephones emergency service. It is indeed serious, particularly so in view of the poor fire service for a town of this size. Let us hope that when we get a new fire station, we shall get a new and regular Fire Service as well.

The Council are to be congratulated on their splendid action at Lake Meadows. Our Councillors do some really hard work for nothing, but unfortunately they go and spoil it by making some decisions against public opinion and some unwise ones too, which tends to blot out their good work.

The increase of vandalism is indeed worrying and it is hoped that the public will respond to the Council's requests.

Last Tuesday's Town Planning Inquiry on the Council's refusal to allow the erection of houses on land scheduled to become part of the Green Belt reminds us that we must be ever vigilant to prevent the "eating away" of the Green Belt. It is essential that the Green Belt is protected. With the transport and other facilities in the way they are now it would be unwise to encourage wide-scale development in Billericay or anywhere else along the Southend lines at the present time. Development over the next few years ought to be restricted to a small, natural growth, at least until a solution is found to the transport problem - if a solution ever is found.

I sincerely hope that the main project at Buttsbury School will not be delayed and late in completion, as were the demountable classrooms. After the main project has been completed, there should be no more extensions, as a school that is too large loses its identity, but preferably a new school should be established in the area, perhaps in Queens Park. I note that work has not yet started on the new Secondary Modern School in Stock Road, and I hope work starts soon.

I am of the opinion that the Council should do something about the Station-Gooseberry Green footpath. This path is widely used and its present unlit state is disgusting ----- "Wanderer".

VANDALISM COSTS £390 IN 6 MONTHS.

The total expenditure arising from vandalism to buildings in Basildon Council's Parks during the six months from April to September, amounted to £390. The Parks Committee are particularly concerned about the wanton damage to the new pavilion at Wickford.

A Press Statement reads: "If those responsible were caught appropriate action would be taken - but the pavilion cannot be continually watched. The Council urgently invite the co-operation of ratepayers, who have to bear the cost of repairs, in preventing this wilful destruction of amenities provided at public expense; unless vandalism of this nature ceases the Council will have to consider the curtailment of the provision of such buildings in the future. This is a matter in which you, the public, can co-operate. If you see damage being done please get in touch immediately with the police. After all this is your property which is being destroyed, and you have to foot the bill".

REST ROOM'S SUCCESSFUL START.

The Rest Room for aged people at the Recreation Rooms, High Street, organised by Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee got off to a successful start when it opened on Thursday. Over 30 old people used the Room on Thursday, and over 50 on Friday. The helpers at the Rest Room have been able to put lonely old people in contact with social organisations, and some old people have sat there all morning or afternoon.

The Rest Room is open from 10 to 5 on Thursdays and Fridays for a 3-month trial period. Light refreshments are available.

The Committee's Chiropody Service is closing down, and is being replaced by a County Council one at the Laindon Road Health Clinic. The charge for O.A.P.'s will be the same - 2/6d, but will be free for those on National Assistance.

TOC H.

Billericay Toc H held a "most satisfactory" Jumble Sale at the Rising Sun Hall on Saturday. All jumble not sold was given to the Round Table. Billericay Toc H meets every Friday at the Billericay Art Club Studio.

FOLK PLAYER'S AUTUMN PRODUCTION.

The Autumn Play of Billericay Folk Players will be held at the Archer Hall on Thursday 24th, Friday 25th, and Saturday the 26th of November.

The play - "Angels In Love" by Hugh Mills - is a comedy with a Victorian setting. It gives another episode in the life of the newly married Little Lord Fauntleroy (subject of the famous book).

CAGE BIRD SHOW.

The Annual Cage Bird Show of the Wickford & District Cage Bird Society at the Archer Hall & Annexe on Saturday was well attended, and patronised from all over Southern England. There were over 900 entries, 80 up on last year.

LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION FOUNDED IN BILLERICAY.

At a recent meeting a Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution was formed in Billericay. Cllr. Tesoirere (Capt. Retd.) is Secretary, Mr. M. King is Chairman and Mrs. Finley Wood Treasurer. The Branch is a financial one and its object is to raise money for the Institution. There are about twenty or thirty helpers.

Mrs. R. Robertson, District Secretary of the South-Eastern Area (255 branches) addressed the meeting. She drew attention to the increasing number of calls upon the lifeboat service, and the need for more finance.

The next meeting will be held on January 9th.

SPORT.

Billericay Town Sports Club; October 29th.

Ist XI Lost Dunmow away 6 - 0. Dunmow are Champions and Ist. in League. CMP. Reserves; Drew with Marconi away 4 - 4. CML.

November 5th.

Ist. XI v Boreham A Result not known. CMP.

Reserves; Lost to Does Sports at home 3 - 5. CML.

CMP - Chelmsford & Mid-Essex Premier Div. CML - Ist. Division,

In future, when the Sports Section is properly organised it is intended to give score and league position in a brief but informative manner for each of Billericay's 3 teams - Ed.

THE "BILLERICAY OBSERVER".
Editor's Notes.

With this issue the new Town Crier (our emblem) is on the front page. The old one broke in two. The Town Crier was chosen as the emblem, as these men were the forerunners of the newspaper in provincial towns and villages in the years gone by. Also included in this issue are some drawings, which were included in the electronic stencil with the Town Crier.

Owing to support from advertisers it has been decided to continue publishing the paper as an 8-page paper for an indefinite period. The full-page advert space on Page 7 has been reserved for an indefinite period ahead.

Following requests from readers, it has been decided to include a small sports column in the paper.

I am pleased to be able to say that the Classified Adverts Section is growing both in scope and size. About 90% of the items advertised have been sold so far, and in some cases there have been several applicants.

The lay-out of this page has been changed after over a year of the old lay-out.

----- The Editor.

THE "OBSERVER" CINEMA GUIDE, RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET, BILLERICAY.
All programmes last three days.

Mon. Nov. 7th, Robert Morley, Ralph Richardson in "OSCAR WILDE", (X).
Also "NO DOWN PAYMENT", (X).

Thurs. Nov. 10th Kenneth Connor, Peggy Cummins in "DENTIST IN THE CHAIR", (U). Also "FOUR FAST GUNS", (U).

Monday Nov. 14th James Stewart and Vera Miles in "THE F.B.I. STORY" (A) and Charles McGraw in "FATEFUL NIGHT", (A).

Thurs. Nov. 17th Aldo Ray, Elizabeth Sellars in "THE DAY THEY ROBBED THE BANK OF ENGLAND", (U), and Denny Miller, Cesare Danova in "TARZAN THE APE MAN", (U).

ORDER YOUR CYRIL LORD CARPETS AND RUGS
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Off Perry St.

Phone Billericay I634.

CALL, WRITE, OR PHONE.

Will fit if required.

BUTTSBURY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.
(Formerly Sunnyville Residents Asn.)

A GENERAL MEETING
will be held on
MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER, 1960
at
BUTTSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL
starting at
8.30 p.m.

Matters of interest to all residents will be discussed and dealt with.

XMAS CHICKENS ---- ORDER NOW.

SMALL DEPOSIT 5/- per BIRD.
REASONABLE BIRDS STRAIGHT FROM FARM, BIRDS PREPARED FOR OVEN FREE.
ALSO NEW LAID EGGS AND BOILING CHICKENS NOW 2/2 per LB.

RABBITS, ALL AGES, FROM 4/6d. ALSO NZW.

MOSS BANK, WOODSIDE ROAD, PERRY ST.,
BILLERICAY.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

For Sale.

(9) Gents Dinner Suit, Perfect Condition. For particulars phone Billericay 101 or apply Box Number 5.

Employment Wanted.

(10) DECORATOR requires situation. Age 58. 40 years experience. Clean worker. Excellent references. Apply Box Number 7.

(11) Ex-Trade Union Organiser, Building Trade, Painter, desires situation, supervisory capacity. Apply Box Number 8.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday November 21st:- Annual Meeting of Billericay Horticultural Society, W.I. Hall, 7-45 p.m.

Thursday 24th November:- Basildon Urban District Council Committee Room 221, 88 Town Square, Basildon at 6.50. Council Meeting.

Thursday 24th and 25th, 26th November, 8 p.m. (Doors open 7.30) The Billericay Folk Players present "Angels In Love" by Hugh Mills.

Saturday December 3rd:- Christmas Bazaar of Billericay Residents' Association, W.I. Hall, 2.30 p.m.

NEWS & NOTES.

A Public Inquiry is to be held on November 25th at the Basildon Council Offices into the objection of Mr. J. A. Dodd of Perry Street, Billericay against the proposed diversion of Footpath 73 between Stock Road and Perry St., Billericay.

W I N T E R S U N S H I N E

Regular Service from SOUTHAMPTON to MADERIA, TENERIFFE, LAS PALMAS, and CASABLANCA (with occasional calls at LISBON and TANGIER).

by S.S. "A R K A D I A" (20,260 tons).

Sailing from SOUTHAMPTON, 18th December, 1960, and thence every twelve or thirteen days until the 8th of April, 1961.

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Apply:- FRED HUNTER LIMITED, 87, BISHOPGATE, LONDON E.C.2. or
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY

JOHN E. KIMBER

67, HIGH STREET,
BILLERICAY.
Phone:- IO35.

GIVE PHOTOGRAPHS THIS CHRISTMAS

PORTRAITS
CHILD STUDIES
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
WEDDINGS PASSPORTS
COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES INVITED

O.A.P's.
26th October.

There was an excellent attendance. Report on sick members was as follows:- Mrs. Hopkins was now improving. Mr. Ramage was about the same. Mrs. Candler, Mrs. Harrison, and Mrs. Bertram were still absent owing to illness. A telegram was sent to Mrs. Hopkins in hospital, wishing her a happy birthday and a speedy recovery from the Branch. The Secretary gave a detailed account of the Bazaar, and thanked everyone for their kind co-operation. Also thanks were extended to all Shopkeepers and Firms who had donated goods for sale, and to all who had brought goods along or helped out. He stated that considering the dreadful day the results had been very satisfactory. A very entertaining afternoon was spent as P.C. Watkins gave a lecture on "Safety First" with coloured film illustrations by Mr. Carter. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Whitehead, Riches, Wickons, and Parkin.

2nd November.

We regret that we have received no report of this meeting, despite extensive efforts to obtain one.

CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- November 13th, 9.30 a.m.,
Holy Communion. November 20th, 9.30
a.m., Family Matins.
Young Wives Fellowship:- November
15th, Mrs. Bowesman, "Bookshelf".

G O O D S P E E D S

I, CHAPEL STREET.
(Opposite War Memorial).

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FISH CATERER.

Established 35 years.

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FROZEN FOODS.

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UNTIL 9.0.p.m.

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For RESULTS advertise in the
"Billericay Observer". Why not try
a display advert - only 2/6d for a
quarter of a page. And there are
reductions for long runs too!
Latest insertion time:- 8 p.m.,
Saturday - write to the "Ob" NOW.

THROUGH THE POST

Letters to the Editor from "Observer" readers.

Dear Sir,

Just a line from myself and friends who regularly take the "Observer", expressing what a fine effort we think you put in to keep the standard of information going each fortnight and particularly in "Billericay In The Past", which you now write yourself. We find this very interesting and would like to suggest an article on "Ye Olde Chantry Cafe" and its history would be of interest, should you be able to find the time and space sometime in the future -- "South Green Reader".

Dear Sir,

Perry Street - 1908 to today.

This muddy, grassy country road
With cart-ruts deep and wide,
Where horses pulled each heavy load,
Along the countryside.

One day they made a granite track,
And how I loved to see,
The steaming, lumbering roller black,
Come puffing up past me.

The surface next with pitch was
sprayed,
The top was sanded too,
A smoother road at last was made,
Then cars came passing through.

We spent such happy, sunny hours,
Along its verges wide,
Gathering the wayside flowers,
And Blackberries beside.

The Violets blossomed at our feet,
And buttercups so bright,
With marguerite and meadowsweet,
It was a lovely sight.

The honeysuckle in the hedge,
The dog rose, and the may,
With travellers joy, and tufted
sedge,
And scent of new mown hay.

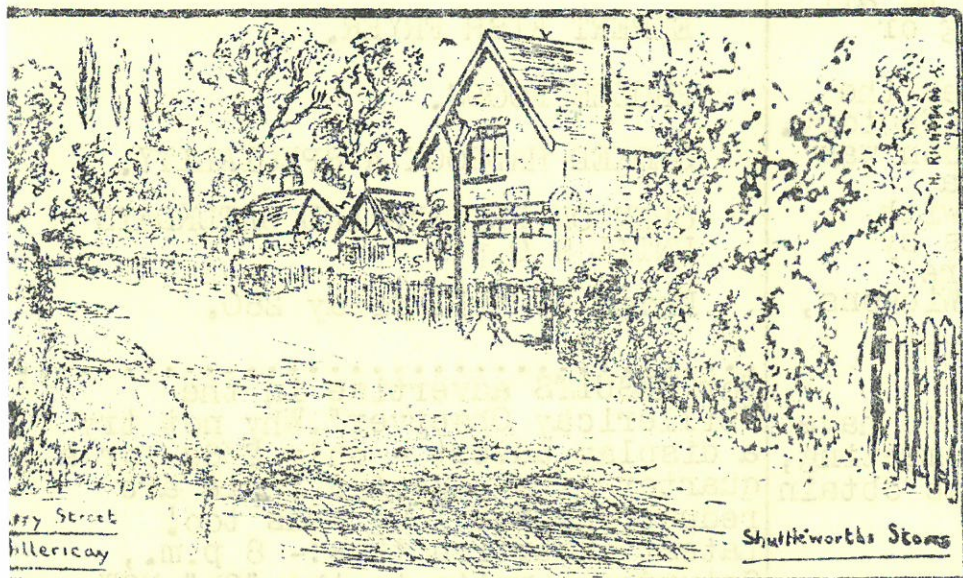
The builders came upon the scene
The piles of bricks soon grew,
Where once were flowers and
grasses green,
Stand rows of houses new.

Oh Why? I wonder must they all
uproot the trees and hedges,
Erect a fence, or red brick wall,
With concrete round the edges.

I spent my childhood and
some of my married life in the
Perry Street Area. I was rather
alarmed when I saw the trees, and
hedges disappearing, but I must
admit that the gardens are quite
attractive now.

Margaret Ricketts, The Avenue,
Billericay.

Editor's Note:- There have indeed
been many changes in the Perry
Street Area, as in most parts of
Billericay. Indeed there have
probably been more changes since
1956, than between 1777 and 1956,
when it was known as Peartree St.,
after Peartree Farm. The drawing
below (kindly loaned by Mrs.
Robinson of Queens Park) shows
Shuttleworth Stores,
Perry Street in 1944. The
Stores has been
extended, the gas lamp
has gone, and has been
replaced by electric
lighting, and there is
now a phone box. The road
was widened and re-
surfaced last year, and
is now lined by two
pavements, and is a bus
route. The trees to the
left of the bungalow
were mostly cut down
when the Uplands Road
estate was first
developed. House backs
would be a feature of a
modern drawing's
background.



Perry Street
Billericay

Shuttleworth's Stores

MATTHEWS

25/27 HIGH STREET

OUR XMAS SHOWROOM IS

NOW OPEN

WE INVITE YOUR INSPECTION
FOR A RANGE OF HIGH CLASS
CONFECTIONERY AND
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1,000 GIFT BOXES FROM 3d

TO £3. CALL AND SEE THE
LARGEST XMAS STOCKING IN
TOWN

A SMALL DEPOSIT SECURES
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BILLERICAY IN THE PAST

No.8 - THE "OLDE CHANTRY CAFE" - by W.P.G.

In 1342, a Chantry Chapel with lands to support a Priest, was founded in Billericay by a member of the Sulward family of Runwell. The Chantry was suppressed by Henry VI, who granted or sold it, with the lands to Walter Farre, who resold them to a member of the Tyrrell family of Heron Hall. The Chapel was then purchased by the inhabitants of Billericay, leaving the lands in the hands of the Tyrrell family until the 19th century, when they were sold to Major Spitty of "Hurlocks". In 1917 they changed hands once again, and seven years ago they were purchased by the London Co-operative Housing Society Ltd, and developed as a housing estate.

The Chantry Cafe (No.61, High St.) and the Butcher's Shop and House are thought to have been the Priest's house, though it must have been largely newly rebuilt at the time the Chantry was suppressed.

It was a house of the "Central Hall" type with gabled crosswings at the North and South, the hall being open to the roof. It is of timber frame construction erected about the beginning of the 16th Century and extended at the South end about the end of the 16th century or the beginning of the 17th century. An addition to the rear of the original South crosswing in the form of a kitchen was made recently, the old kitchen in the 17th century wing being added to the present tea room as one long room. The original central hall has had a floor inserted to form an attic type bedroom over the butcher's shop.

The main Cafe in the 17th century addition, as well as the room above, has numerous exposed beams in walls and ceilings, some said to be re-used Ships' timbers. The wall between the Oak Room and the butcher's shop was recently found to be of wattle and daub construction. The remainder of the building has a number of exposed beams, especially in the room over the shop, and two fireplaces on the ground floor of the house have a common chimney. A story which has been passed down through the years is that the house was built "round a tree trunk". The rear is mainly of lath and plaster, with some brick, and there is one good, though comparatively modern chimney stack.

The occupiers of "Ye Olde Chantry Cafe" state that in "pre-Reformation times" this building was "probably a Grammar School, the teaching being carried on free to the poor of the district by the Priest living in the Chantry". It has also been suggested that it was used by a brotherhood of monks, in the 15th and 16th centuries. However, its main historical interest is its connection with the Pilgrim Fathers and the "Mayflower" in 1620. Christopher Martin, the Treasurer of "The Mayflower", is supposed to have lived there. He was not only responsible for the financial side of the adventure, but also for the provisioning of the ship, and it is almost certain that the flour taken with them by the Pilgrim Fathers was prepared at the Windmill on Bell Hill just outside the town. This contention is supported by the fact that the windmill was the copyhold property of Thomas Wattes, the son of "Worthee Wattee" the Martyr, and his sympathies would be on the side of Christopher Martin and his friends. It is said that the rest of the Essex contingent joined with the four Billericay members for a meeting at Chantry House before embarking for the ship at Grays or Leigh and America.

Over thirty years ago it was said that the Chantry House, which was up for sale at the time, had been bought by an American, who intended to dismantle it and re-erect it in America. The story was reported in the national press. Nevertheless the Chantry House never left Billericay, and it still graces the High Street today, one of Billericay's oldest buildings, and one of the few outstanding Tudor properties in the High Street.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE it is hoped to deal with old houses outside the Central Area of Billericay.

The "Billericay Observer" is published on alternate Tuesdays by W.P. Grant, at 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex, Price 1½d.

STOP PRESS.