

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY DECEMBER 20th, 1960.

EDITOR WYNFORD GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 76. PRICE 1½d.

RAILWAY ROW LOOMS

A major row between Billericay and Buttsbury Residents' Associations and British Railways over the number of delays, since the current change-over a month ago on the Liverpool Street-Southend Victoria line, is threatened.

Both Associations have received numerous complaints from travelling members, who are fed up with the repeated delays, breakdowns, and failures.

In an exclusive interview with the Secretary of the Billericay Residents' Association, Mr. G. Birch on Saturday it was revealed that both Associations are giving a great deal of consideration to a joint "high-level protest". I understand that other Residents' Associations on the line between Shenfield and Southend may be asked to support the protest. Mr. Birch said that many questions arising from the Association's meeting on Transport last month had not been satisfactorily answered. He described the service on the line as "apalling and growing worse". There had been sixteen delays and major breakdowns in the past month. Further details are expected to be available before the next issue of the "Observer".

CHRISTMAS BUS STRIKE THREATENED.

Eastern National bus crews in this area are threatening to stage a strike on Bank Holiday Tuesday (December 27th) unless the Eastern National Bus Company agree to meet their terms for working on this day. They want a pay rate of one-and-a-half times, and an extra rest day in lieu of the Bank Holiday. The Eastern National have yet to decide what line of action they will take.

All bus services operated by the Eastern National will be suspended on Christmas Day. The usual Saturday Service will operate on Christmas Eve. On Boxing Day a Sunday Service will be operated (with minor exceptions to meet local needs). It was intended to run a similar service on Bank Holiday Tuesday.

While work on the Buttsbury High Level Sewerage Scheme is in progress at the Stock end of Perry Street Route 256 (Billericay Town Service; Outwood Common - High Street - Perry Street) will terminate and commence at Perry Street; Newlands Road, instead of at Orchard Avenue.



OYEZ, ALL THE
LOCAL NEWS.

WELFARE COMMITTEE ENSURE A HAPPY XMAS FOR LONELY O.A.P'S

Billericay Section of the Basildon Urban District Old People's Welfare Committee are ensuring that Billericay's lonely Old Age Pensioners will have a Happy Christmas this year.

The Old People's Rest Room at the Recreation Rooms, High Street will be open all this week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Rest Room will not be open on Bank Holiday Tuesday, but will be open as usual on Thursday 29th (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) and Friday 30th (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

The Committee are holding a Christmas Party at the Rose Hall on January 14th. 70 pensioners will have a buffet and an entertainment. Priority will be given to those Old Age Pensioners who can't get out much, who are lonely, or don't belong to clubs. Car transport to and from the party will be provided.

The Committee have sent out 102 Christmas Parcels to needy pensioners, value about 10/-. The Committee sent out more parcels than last year, and they were more valuable. Associations who donated money towards purchase of parcels are as follows:- Billericay Residents' Association, Billericay Women's Institute, British Legion Committee, Burstead W.I., Business & Professional Womens Club, Catholic Women's League, Congregational Church, Horticultural Society, Inner Wheel, Ladies Circle, Methodist Church, Billericay Parish Church Young Wives, Round Table, Society of Friends (Quakers), South Green Thursday Club, and Toc H.

The "Billericay Observer" is printed and published by W.P. Grant at 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex.

DEATH OF FORMER COUNCILLOR.

The death is announced of Mr. R. R. Gaywood, at his home in Langdon Hills, a former Basildon Urban District Councillor.

He came to the district in 1950, having already distinguished himself in public service elsewhere. Before long he was participating in local affairs, and in 1955 he was elected as Conservative Councillor for Langdon Hills. Only one year later he became Vice-Chairman of the Council's Finance Committee. He became Chairman of the Finance Committee in 1959 and served as such until his retirement from the Council in May of this year, owing to ill health.

He was of happy disposition and often relieved tedious discussions at meetings. The Members and Officers of the Council express their heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Gaywood.

POULTRY MAN FIGHTS COUNCIL.

When Basildon Council granted permission for the erection of a poultry shed on the site of "Wynfall", Noak Hill Road, they imposed certain conditions.

They said that the building should be removed and the land reinstated to its former condition to their satisfaction before the 31st December, 1962.

The reason they gave for this decision was to allow the Local Planning Authority to review the position on the expiration of the limited permission granted due to the proximity of adjoining private houses and bungalows.

Mr. A. C. Clarke, who erected the shed, appealed against the conditions to the Minister of Housing & Local Government.

The Minister has accepted the appeal and therefore Mr. C. Johnson F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I. will conduct a Public Inquiry at the Main Committee Room of Basildon Council at their offices on Thursday 29th December, 1960 at 10.30 a.m.

For a full report of the Inquiry see the next issue of the "Billericay Observer".

REVISED GUIDE.

Basildon Council are to publish a revised issue of the Urban District Guide shortly.

ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER".

Christmas Time is here once again - the time of happy family parties, carol singers, turkey and plum pudding, and other festivities. Christmas was a rather more solemn event in years gone by, a day when the main feature would be the family visit to Church. In modern times fewer than 10% of the population attend Church, the religious aspect of Christmas Day has been forgotten, and the highlight of the modern Xmas Day is the festivities, and not the Church. The social changes and the advancement (?) of science in this century have brought new problems.

For many old and lonely people Christmas will be a sad affair with no parties, or family, or festivities. However, in Billericay these old people will have a happier time than elsewhere. What is the difference? The difference is that Billericay is fortunate enough to have people who will help an Old People's Welfare Committee that really get things done, and who are supported by the local organisations. This year they have done an immense amount of good work for Billericay's old people - for instance they have established a Rest Room in the High Street where the old people can go and have a chat and a cup of tea in cosy surroundings. This Christmas they have worked very hard to make it a Happy Christmas for the old and lonely people of the area (for details see elsewhere in the paper). They deserve hearty congratulations for the work they have done - and the more support they get, the more work they will be able to do.

Those in hospital may feel a bit downcast at Christmas, but those in St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay are more fortunate than some for once again there is another group of Good Samaritans to come to their aid - Billericay's St. Andrew's Hospital League of Friends. They give each Ward Sister money for festivities in each Ward.

This sort of work is in the true spirit of Christmas - helping those less fortunate than yourself. Billericay is lucky to have these two organisations to do such splendid work. It is a pleasure to write an article on the brighter side of the life of Billericay, away from Council and other rows (important as they are). These sort of people are the backbone of Billericay.

DETAILS OF BILLERICAY CARNIVAL, 1961.

The procession route and fete venue of Billericay Carnival, 1961 (to be held on June 24th - the original date of July 1st clashed with Chelmsford Carnival) will be the same as last year. This was decided at the meeting of Billericay Carnival Committee last Monday week at the Secondary School. It was decided to invite tenders for a fun fair and catering.

As with last year the central organising body will be the Round Table, with local organisations and individuals taking on various tasks. A third of the proceeds will be devoted to local youth organisations, a third to the old people, and a third to the sick and infirm.

Mr. A. Bryant (Chairman) stated that the procession and street collecting would be organised by Billericay Branch of the British Legion. The Carnival Queen contest would be run by the Ladies' Circle, and Billericay Folk Players have been asked to organise the Carnival Dance.

Mr. Bryant also announced that there would be a youth band competition in the procession, open to any bands from any area. A trophy would be presented to the best band.

It is intended to increase the Carnival programme to 36 pages this year, and it was hoped that it would be in the hands of the printer by March.

SILVER WATCHES STOLEN FROM MUSEUM.

Two silver watches, the case they were in, and a hairpin were stolen from Billericay's Cater Museum at 74, High Street on Monday or Tuesday. The fact that the watches were missing was discovered by the Curator, Mr. H. Richman, who informed the police. The Police are investigating the matter.

The Museum will open as usual on Christmas Eve, and will re-open after Christmas on Wednesday 28th December.

NEWS & NOTES.

The Billericay Residents' Association Christmas Bazaar on the 3rd December raised over £30 for general funds.

Perry Street Young Wives gave a successful party for 26 old people at Perry Street Church on December 13th. Car transport to and from the party was provided, and all who attended had an enjoyable time.

RESIDENTS ANGRY OVER COUNCIL'S ATTITUDE TO FOOTPATH.

The Council's attitude to complaints from Buttsbury Residents' Association about the state of Station Footpath, Billericay (from Gooseberry Green to the Station) has annoyed members of the Association. The Association asked the Council to see that water from the Industrial Road does not flood the footpath ankle deep again, and also to provide one additional street lamp. In their reply the Council have stated that there is no flooding, and that it would be too expensive to provide an additional street lamp, owing to the position of the footpath with regard to the electricity supply.

Commenting on the Council's decision a member of the Association said: "The Council cannot afford to provide one more lamp, yet they spend thousands of pounds on elaborate amenities at Basildon, but they ignore requests for the provision of simple necessities".

The Association are holding a New Year's Party on 21st January for members and their children.

SILVER SPOON FOR CHRISTMAS DAY BABIES.

Billericay St. Andrews Hospital League of Friends are presenting an engraved silver spoon to all babies born at the Hospital on Christmas Day.

The League's Cake Sale on Friday was most successful, over £50 being raised.

The recent Jumble Sale raised over £20.

FORDS GIFT TO LOCAL OLD PEOPLE.

As in the previous two years, the Ford Motor Company have, instead of sending Christmas cards to their many friends, decided to make gifts to needy folk in areas where they have special ties (Fords have a factory at Basildon). They have repeated their kind action in forwarding to the Chairman of the 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 asked the Basildon U.D. Old Peoples Welfare Committee to arrange through its local Committees for the appropriate distribution to be made.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE BASILDON URBAN DISTRICT:- THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF BASILDON COUNCIL SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE COMING YEAR MAY BRING JOY, HAPPINESS, AND PROSPERITY TO EVERY HOME IN THE DISTRICT.

The Editor of the "Billericay Observer" wishes all the paper's readers and friends in Billericay and throughout the World a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

This issue is the 3rd Christmas Issue. With this issue we differ from the other two issues, particularly the last one, in so much as that this issue veers away from the usual rather austere content, and is on a more cheerful note, more in keeping with the spirit of Christmas. The news, for instance, is on a more varied and cheerful note. Many of the news stories are connected in some way or another with Christmas, and not with Council rows, sewage and lighting schemes, residents meetings, transport arguments, Car Parks, footpath diversions, local society news, all essential but rather bread-and-butter fare. The articles too, have taken on a Christmassy look - "Billericay In The Past" features a mystery and ghost story, while "Wanderer" confines his article to mainly cheerful topics.

There is a reasonable amount of news this time, but last time ten pages could have been filled. There are quite a few adverts this time, but I always take care to see that there aren't too many. The full page space has been taken by a new advertiser (Queens Park Stores), and this together with the number of other adverts reflects credit on the progress the paper has made since 1958. Despite the fact that circulation continues to grow, if it were not for the adverts, a paper of this size would cost 2½d or 3d.

Thanks to Mr. Hillyard of Cromwell Avenue for the continued loan of his typewriter - the "Observer" typewriter has not yet returned from repairs. Broken typewriter has been added to the list of difficulties - no stencils, no correctine, awkward duplicator - which are uncommon to normal papers

----- The Editor.

SOUTH GREEN MEMORIAL HALL.

NEW YEARS EVE DANCE.
Saturday 31st December.

REG MILLER BAND.

Novelties -- Spots.

Bar Applied For.

ADMISSION --- TICKET ONLY --- 6/6d.

XMAS CHICKENS -- ORDER NOW!

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

RABBITS ALL AGES, FROM 4/6d.
ALSO NEW ZEALAND WHITES.

Apply:- "MOSS BANK", WOODSIDE ROAD, PERRY STREET, BILLERICAY. (Between shops and school).

ORDER YOUR CYRIL LORD CARPETS AND RUGS
From

MR. A. BAKER, 69, KNIGHTBRIDGE WALK.
(Off Perry St.)

PHONE BILLERICAY 1634.

CALL, WRITE, OR PHONE.

Will fit if required.

THE "OBSERVER" CINEMA GUIDE -- RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL STREET, BILLERICAY.

Monday Dec. 19th (3 Days) Jeffrey Hunter, Constance Towers in "SERGEANT RUTLEDGE" (A) and "TALL STORY" (U).
Thursday Dec. 22nd (3 Days) Richard Greene, Eva Bartok in "BEYOND THE CURTAIN" (U) also John Wayne, Dean Martin in "CAMPBELL'S KINGDOM" (U).
No Sunday programme on Christmas Day.
Boxing Day, Bank Holiday Tuesday, and Wednesday 28th, family attraction, John Wayne, Dean Martin in "RIO BRAVO" (U).
Thursday Dec. 29th (3 Days) Steve Reeves and Sylva Koscina in "HERCULES UNCHAINED", (U).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

The next meeting of Basildon Urban District Council will be held in the Main Committee Room (No. 221) at the Council Offices, 88, Town Sq., Basildon at 6.50 p.m. on the 12th January (Thursday).

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STOP PRESS.

NEWS FLASH - Museum theft (Page 3) - New information received, watches were stolen on Saturday. Not insured, estimated value £8 or less.

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.

ROUND VOYAGE FARES FROM £75.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY:-

JOHN E. KIMBER

67, HIGH STREET,
BILLERICAY.

Phone:- 1035.

GIVE PHOTOGRAPHS THIS CHRISTMAS

PORTRAITS
CHILD STUDIES
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
WEDDINGS, PASSPORTS
COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES INVITED

BILLERICAY O.A.P.'s.

7th December.

There was an excellent attendance. The report on sick members was as follows:- Mr. Ramage was still about the same, Mrs. Rackham was improving, Mrs. Walledge was now out of hospital. Mrs. Horsley was welcomed back after a long absence. An entertaining afternoon was spent, Mrs. Swaby and Mrs. Owen rendering songs, the pianist being Mrs. Gildersleve.

13th December.

There was a good attendance. Sick Members were remembered and wished a speedy recovery to good health. Mr. Ramage was still in hospital and about the same; Mrs. Camdler was improving; Mrs. Walters was in hospital. Mrs. Rackham was welcomed back after absence through illness. It was an open afternoon, when there was a sale of surplus goods from the Bazaar, which proved very satisfactory. The Secretary then gave details of the Christmas Party to be held on the 21st of December, starting at 1.30 p.m. He also emphasised that there would be no meeting on Wednesday 28th December. The Secretary wished all members a Happy Xmas and successful New Year. Birthday Honours were accorded Mr. Lewis and Mr. Gill. Tea hostesses for both meetings were Mesdames Sippitt, Keens, Ransom, and Patch.

The Editor extends special greetings for a Merry Xmas to all his O.A.P. readers.

CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- Christmas Day, Holy Communion, 9.30 a.m. January 1st, Holy Communion, 9.30 a.m.
Young Wives Fellowship:- 3rd January, 2.15 p.m., talk by the Rev. Swallow.
New members (especially newcomers to the area) are always welcome.
Christening Service:- A Christening Service will be held at Christ Church on Sunday January 8th, 3.30 p.m. Parents who wish to have their babies christened should apply to The Vicar.

G O O D S P E E D S

1, CHAPEL STREET.
(Opposite War Memorial).

WET, DRIED, & FRIED
FISH CATERER.

Established 35 years.

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OPEN ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
UNTIL 9.0 p.m.

FROZEN FOODS STOCKED.

Phone -- Billericay 280.

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE
"BILLERICAY OBSERVER"
WILL APPEAR ON

Tuesday January 3rd.

Don't forget your copy - 1½d - from
the main local newsagents.

THROUGH THE POST.

Letters to the Editor from "Billericay Observer" readers.

Dear Sir,

Now that the rich are to have a Car Park off the High Street it's about time a thought was given to the walkers.

We could well do with two Zebra Crossings in the High Street, and the "Slow" sign found and put back at the top of the rise from the railway bridge. This has been missing for some months now and the racing has greatly increased.

More lighting is now required in Station Approach, especially now the buses have a round way.

These last three items could be installed at a fraction of the cost of a Car Park.

----- "Walker".

Editor's Note; We try to give all sides a hearing. Letters on all subjects are welcome. Letters can be signed with a person's name or a nom-de-plume - but if you use a nom-de-plume please include your name and address; I guarantee that it won't be revealed.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS.

For Sale.

12) Parkway 3 Convactor Fire. All-night burner, good condition, price £1. Apply:- 7, Lakeside.

12a) "Corker" White Crash Helmet, Size 6 $\frac{7}{8}$, as new, £1.

"Garrard" R.C. 72 3-speed Record Changer Unit, £1.

Apply:- J. Jenkins, 6, Crescent Close, Crescent Road, Perry Street, Billericay

"OBSERVER" SMALL ADS - 30 WORDS, 6d.

NEW PAVILION ERECTED.

The new pavilion of Billericay Town Sports Club was erected yesterday (Monday). The pavilion is the result of months of hard work collecting money towards it on the part of club members. The building measures 40ft x 18ft, and includes four changing rooms, a kitchen, and a storeroom. The four changing rooms can be converted into a room for meetings and socials by the removal of the heavy curtaining which partitions them. It is hoped to provide showers eventually, in an extension.

BILLERICAY TOWN S.C - RESULTS etc.

Saturday December 10th:-

1st team - No Match.

2nd team - (10 men) lost away to Witham Res. 1-4 in the 1st. round of the Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League Cup Div 2.

3rd team - Friendly v Wickford Res. Won 4-3

Saturday December 17th:-

1st Team - Lost 1-3 home to Maldon Town in the Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League Cup (Premier Divi.)

2nd team - Away to Gt. Baddow. Div. 2 of Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League.

3rd team - no match.

The first team is now second from bottom in the Premier Div. of the Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League. Total points 7, Games Played, 17, Won 3, Drawn 1, Lost 13.

The second team is halfway in the 2nd div. of the Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League.

The third team is not a member of a League, but plays friendly games with local reserve teams.

MATTHEWS

25/27 HIGH STREET

TOBACCONIST & CONFECTIONER

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO
ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

QUEENS PARK STORES

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WISHING ALL
OUR CUSTOMERS

A

MERRY XMAS

AND

A PROSPEROUS
NEW
YEAR

BILLERICAY IN THE PAST

by W.P.G.
No. 11.

A BILLERICAY GHOST AND A BILLERICAY MYSTERY.

Whether you believe in ghosts or not this time of year is an appropriate time to tell the story of a Billericay Ghost and Mystery.

An old nurse was to be night attendant to a young man lying dangerously ill in Burghstead Lodge (High Street). She was to go every evening at eight o'clock to relieve a stranger from London; the physician was also from London. Her instructions were to be extremely cautious not to speak to the gentleman unless it was urgently necessary, nor to make the slightest motion to disturb the few intervals of rest he enjoyed. The house belonged to a non-resident nobleman, and was at various times occupied by members of his family, who obtained their necessaries from London, and not locally.

A dark staircase of immense width fenced with balusters six inches wide, and supported by a massive railing led to the sick chamber. There were two windows sunk a yard deep in the wall that looked out on the garden in the rear, which was a wilderness. The young man was laid upon an old fashioned square bedstead at one end of the room. It was hung with faded red tapestry, and was very large. There were a few chairs and a table, and a large fireplace containing smouldering logs, but there was no other furniture. Oak panels covered the wall and ceiling. The whole room was gloomy, kept dark at the doctor's suggestion, and the solitary candle threw only a faint gleam.

From the Day Nurse, the Night Nurse learned that no one but her and the Doctor had crossed the threshold, nor had she seen anyone in the remainder of the house, which appeared to be unoccupied. The household necessaries were brought in plentiful quantity from London. She did not know the gentleman's name, but believed he came from Cambridge.

Nurse wrapped her cloak around her, drew her seat close to the fire, and commenced reading a book which she had brought with her. There was no sound to disturb her apart from the incessant ticking of the "death watch" beetle, and now and then a gust of wind in the withered trees of the garden. The following hours passed away heavily, when at about midnight the gentleman appeared to breathe heavily and seemed very uneasy. On rising to go to attend to him she was surprised to see a lady seated on the chair near the head of the bed. She made a curtsy, and was moving on as she intended, when the lady raised her arm, and turning the palm of her hand, which was covered with a white glove, towards her silently motioned her to keep her seat. She assumed it was some intimate friend or relation who had come in. The lady had a black veil over her bonnet, and her face was turned towards the invalid. She saw that the shape and turn of her head and neck were graceful and elegant in the extreme. The rest of her person was enveloped in a glittering green silk gown. Nurse determined to observe if she left as quietly as she came. A second attempt to relieve the young man met with the same result. Then Nurse closed her eyes for a moment and the young lady was gone; the invalid was again calm.

The next night was stormy, a crisp sleet hissed on the windows, and the wind moaned in heavy gusts down the spacious chimney, and the occasional bang of a door in some other part of the house came with a dire and hollow clang along the dreary passages. She was thinking when her ear was struck with the heavy breathing of her charge, and she observed the lady in the green gown in the same position. Her dress was the fashionable very low bodied summer costume of the period. Nurse was silenced by the waving of the hand, but she approached the bed, and the lady drew away. The invalid was in a state of great agitation, and his glaring eyes followed the young lady. Although she only changed her thoughts for a moment, the young lady disappeared as before, and the invalid became more composed again.

She was reluctantly persuaded by the surgeon to sit again the next night, and once again the distressing change of suffering in her unfortunate charge ensued, when the young lady mysteriously appeared. It was obvious that he was dying. As the young lady moved towards the door, Nurse advanced at the same time, put her hand on the latch, and with the other hand lifted the veil. A peal of laughter rang through the room, as Nurse saw a death's head filled the bonnet, its vacant sockets and ghastly teeth were all that could be seen. The next morning the young man was found dead, nurse was senseless, she aged in three months more than in a life time and died. One mystery remains; the funeral was attended by a man remarkably like the pharaoh on the coin of the realm. The great oak chamber was never used again save as a lumber room, and a strange feeling of awe and coldness is said to fall on those who have attempted to occupy it since the mysterious death.