

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

TUESDAY JANUARY 31st, 1961.

EDITOR WYNFORD GRANT. EDITION NUMBER 79. PRICE 1½d.

BIG EXPANSION PLANS FOR BILLERICAY

Essex County Council provisionally estimate a population rise of 9,000 in Billericay in the next twenty years, making a total of 24,000. This was revealed by Cllr. A. F. Quirk, Chairman of Basildon Council's Development & Planning Committee at a Press Conference organised by the Council at Billericay last Saturday week.

Councillor Quirk went on to say that if these plans were acted upon, additional land would have to be thrown open for development. Queens Park was shown on the Town Plan as a white area of "no notation", and the Council would prefer to see this area developed to land of value to agriculture. If Queens Park were to be developed, it would have to be developed comprehensively on a large scale, by a big contractor or the local Council. However, there was never any suggestion that the Council should develop Queens Park. Regarding the Green Belt Cllr. Quirk said that the only area of official Metropolitan Green Belt round the town was in the west towards Brentwood. The remaining areas of "Green Belt" were only local. He ended by saying that the ultimate population for the Urban District would be 153,000 and he admitted that this was "on the big side".

In order to provide services of a high standard for the influx of population, Mrs. C. J. Gadson, Chairman of Works, said that the Council had schemes costing £2,000,000 under way at the moment. The following schemes are proceeding in Billericay:- Hickstars Lane, £2,458/10/9, paving of footways and grass verges in hand; Grange Road, £2,839/19/11, work about to commence on paving of footways and grass verges; Billericay Sewage Disposal Works, £119,000, enlargement and modernisation nearing completion; Outwood Common Sewage Treatment Works, £110,000, enlargement and modernisation nearing completion; Lake Meadows extension, £2583/3/2, levelling and seeding of additional area to S.W. in progress; South Green, resiting of children's playground equipment, tender about to be accepted; Second District Lighting Improvement Scheme, pole bracket, £2,500, nearing completion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.



O.A.P.'S REST ROOM VERY SUCCESSFUL

In its first three month trial period the Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee's Rest Room for O.A.P.'s at the Recreation Rooms, High Street has proved highly successful and at a recent Committee Meeting it was decided to continue running the Rest Room. The Rest Room is open from 10-1 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, and from 10-1 p.m. on Thursdays.

There were 30 people present at the quarterly Meeting at the Health Clinic, Laindon Road. The balance in hand was the best ever at £150/8/7d. Two more organisations, the Boy Scouts and the Inner Wheel had sent representatives to serve on the Committee.

The report presented by the Secretary, Mrs. Barr, showed that the past quarter had been a very busy one, with the opening of the Rest Room, the clerical work involved in the changeover from a voluntary to an official foot clinic, the Christmas parcels scheme, and the New Year party. Matters in which the Committee are interested in at present are a bus shelter in Thynne Road, male chronic sick patients to Thurrock, and seeing if there is enough support to start new pensioners clubs in Sunnymede and Perry Street.

As usual, the individual service to pensioners has gone on too, with home visits and distribution of second-hand clothing, and advice has been given on all manner of problems. Six more ladies have volunteered to help with home visiting. Mrs. Alston was thanked for her work with the Rest Room. With so much business in hand the Committee decided to alter the quarterly meetings to bi-monthly ones.

STOP PRESS.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Questions asked by the Editor at the Basildon U.D. Council Press Conference.

Q:- STREET NUMBERING; "On many occasions people have asked me to direct them to properties in Stock Road and Norsey Road and have complained to me about the difficulty of locating a property in these two roads. They are built up for the majority of their lengths, and are among the longest roads in Billericay. Have the Council any plans for numbering these roads?"

A:- In reply Mrs. C. J. Gadson, Works Chairman, said that the Council realised how helpful it was to police, firemen, residents, and visitors to have these roads numbered. In view of the pressure of work recently on Private Street Works and Sewage the Engineer & Surveyor had not got the time to proceed with minor schemes of this nature. However, when he had the time, he had permission to proceed with arrangements for the numbering of these and other streets.

Q:- PRIVATE STREET WORKS:- "I understand that the Works Committee have included Lake Avenue and Wakefield Avenue, Billericay in their new provisional Private Street Works programme. What is the Committee's reason for intending to make-up Wakefield Avenue but not Lion Lane, which is a continuation of Wakefield Avenue and which would provide a link between the High Street and Western Road? Also what are the Committee's reasons for proposing to make-up Lake Avenue, which has a good made-up surface for the majority of its length, when there are other unmade roads in a far worse condition?"

A:- Mrs. Gadson emphasised that the programme was provisional and only in an early stage. The Committee had now decided to include Lion Lane in the provisional programme. Re Lake Avenue the Committee felt that it would be better to make it up before the reasonable surface deteriorated, thus saving money.

Q:- CENTRAL CAR PARK:- "When will the various temporary and permanent Car Parks in the centre of Billericay be ready for public use?"

A:- Mrs. Gadson stated that there had been some difficulty in obtaining the land, but it was hoped to obtain loan sanction in two months time. Negotiations were proceeding regarding the Archer Hall Car Park.

MORE ON PAGE 4.

The "Billericay Observer" is Printed & Published by the 'Billericay Observer Press' at 143, Perry Street, Billericay, Essex.

ROUND AND ABOUT by

"WANDERER".

The Council Press

Conference (see reports) was most successful and I hope the Council will hold them more often, at least every six months, although I suggest that every four months would be a suitable period. Also I hope that they will re-start the Delegate Conferences which gave the public the chance to question the Council.

I am in full agreement with my colleague on the question of extraction of news from the Minutes prior to the Council Meeting (Page 3). One usually finds when one gets the Minutes that only about a quarter of the interesting news items find their way into the Press Statements. The public have every right to know how their money is being spent before it is too late to protest, and as Cllr. Davies said at the 1959 Conference the Press are the means of "bridging the gap".

Mrs. Gadson accuses the Press of being unfair in their attitude and treatment of Private Street Works. I realise that the Council have an enormous task in reconstructing the many unmade roads in the area, and I also realise that they are trying hard to make them up as quickly as possible. Perhaps they have reason to be annoyed when there are objections from the frontagers in street after street. But these people have a right to have their say about their street being made up, and I am of the opinion that the Council should bear in mind their requests and objections, and meet them wherever possible.

I hope that the Council will soon find time to proceed with street numbering schemes, for although these schemes are minor, they are urgently necessary.

It is indeed alarming that Billericay has so little official Green Belt and the situation will have to be carefully watched. Also, when they are considering the Billericay of the future I hope that the Council will remember the Water and Transport problems when taking any decisions. Also I hope they will insist on well-planned, pleasant estates.

I think that the behaviour of Eastern National is absolutely disgraceful - threatening to withdraw a service on an essential, overcrowded route just because they can't get their own way and have got a monopoly.

----- "WANDERER".

COUNCIL PRESS CONFERENCE.
Continued From Page One.

Group "A" Lighting Schemes, including London Road and Southend Road, Billericay, £5,147/16/3, loan sanction awaited, tender accepted; Third District Lighting Improvement Scheme, Class "B", 1960/61, awaiting loan sanction; Hill House Drive make-up, £11,348/17/9½d, works about to commence; Horace Road make-up £5,873/12/7d, works about to commence; Hillside Road, £9063/4/1d, works about to commence; Station Road make-up, scheme prepared, £10,258/11/7 (Est.), provisional apportionment ready to be served; Billericay Car Park, rear of Council offices, £1,200, tender invited; Billericay Car Park, west side of High Street, rear of No. 97, 99, £2,750, scheme prepared; Improvement Scheme for road junction, Perry Street/ Mountnessing Road, £11,365/0/3d, works in progress; Noak Hill Road improvement Phase 1 £33,000 (Est.) Phase 2, £17,500 plus accommodation works and land acquisition, Phase 1 with County for approval, Phase 2, ready for tender, other works nearing completion; Billericay North West Area Highways Scheme, Part 1, £8,986, works nearing completion; Billericay North West Area Scheme, Part 2, £70,292, scheme ready for submission to Ministry; Buttsbury High Level Sewerage Scheme, £106,900/5/11, works in hand; Tye Common Sewerage Scheme, £40,000 (Est.), scheme in preparation.

A press representative, referring to a recent incident, when the "Wickford Times" was reprimanded, for printing a Committee recommendation before the Council Meeting from the minutes, asked if it was the Council's policy not to allow such items to appear. In reply it was stated that the Minutes were given to the Press before the Council Meeting in order to assist them, but the Council prohibited the printing of items from the Minutes, unless a Press Statement was issued. The reporter then stated that it was common practice throughout the country to allow this, and the Press were behind him in taking the view that it should be allowed. In Marleyborne and Paddington the Press were allowed to print everything they wanted from the Minutes. If a recommendation was not passed the whole debate was printed. He felt that the public had a right to know what the Council's Committees were discussing. In reply it was stated that the Press Statements were adequate.

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN.

UP TO PRESS IF THEY WANT TO ATTEND
COMMITTEE MEETINGS - Continued.

On the question of the new Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, the Council was of the opinion that a majority decision of the Press should decide whether this Act (providing for the admission of the Press to certain Council Committee meetings) should be enforced. The Council felt that it would be unfair for just one paper to take advantage of this Act.

Speaking on the possibility of building another old people's home similar to Arne Court, Cllr. D.V. Morley, Chairman of Housing, said that the Council would have to see how the present one developed, and see if any improvements could be made. There were no plans at the moment for another home of this type at the moment, but the Housing Committee would consider a full report in a few months time. There were 80 bungalows for O.A.P.'s planned. There had been a steady progression downwards in the Old People's waiting list since 1958. In 1958 there were 204 in the list, in 1959 there were 131, and in December, 1961 113. The last figure consisted of applications, some of which may not have the necessary priority.

TURN TO PAGE 2 FOR THE FULL QUESTIONS
ASKED BY THE "OBSERVER" AT THE PRESS
CONFERENCE, AND THE ANSWERS.
SOUTH GREEN SCHOOL DISPUTE - LATEST.

When South-East Essex Divisional Education Executive met on Wednesday, most of the agenda was concerned with the South Green Primary School crisis. Their decision is now awaited. I understand that Cllr. W.H. Davies J.P., Chairman of Basildon Council, has taken a sympathetic interest in the dispute.

The Executive considered a petition organised by Mr. Featherstone of Tyrrells Road, South Green and supported by Billericay Residents' Association. In it Mr. Featherstone points out that owing to the fact that South Green Primary School was not built large enough (as the Executive forgot about a housing estate) mothers and children have to make the daily journey to Billericay involving wasted time and considerable expense. He asks for a school bus to be provided, and for the Primary School to be extended. Unless their demands are met the residents threaten to keep their children away from school in a protest "strike" action.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

The Station Approach News Stand, which sold copies of the "Billericay Observer", has closed down. Also, owing to transport difficulties, and a time factor, I regret that copies will no longer be sold at the Yorkshire Grey News Stand, Brentwood. I am looking into the possibilities of selling the "Observer" at South Green and Sunnymede, and it is hoped to have copies on sale in at least one of these areas by the next edition. The greatest problem that prevents the distribution of copies to a wider range of newsagents is the time factor. While we would like to, it is impossible to deliver copies to Stock, Tye Common, Great Burstead, Outwood Common, Stock Road, and so on in 1½ hours on a Monday evening, when one has to rely on public transport. As a matter of information the "Observer" is at present on sale at Howards, Matthews, and Marshalls, High Street, and Queens Park Stores and Shuttleworth Stores, Perry Street.

The article on Page 8 is the last in the present "Billericay In The Past" series. I realise how popular this article is, but articles of this type, however good, cannot go on for ever without a break. However its absence will be a short one, as a new series is planned for late March.

Owing to the demand for advertising space it has been decided to have occasional 10-page issues. Details in the next issue.

Last but not least, I would like to appeal to all my readers to send in Letters for the paper - they are always most welcome.

--- The Editor.

LIVE WELL!

1st YEAR HENS WILL ROAST OR BOIL!
ONLY 2/2 per lb - CHEAPER THAN
SAUSAGES!

PREPARED FOR OVEN!

Also ---- RABBITS
---- NEW LAID EGGS

Apply:- "MOSS BANK", WOODSIDE ROAD,
PERRY STREET, BILLERICAY. (Between
Stores 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.

Council Press Conference.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

Continued From Page 2.

Q:- "What is the position regarding
a) Billericay's new Fire Station and
b) The provision of a new regular Fire
Brigade?"

A:- Cllr. Phelps said that the Council had favoured the Industrial Estate as a site for a Fire Station, but the County Council preferred the allotments in Laindon Road. The Council was now trying to arrange an alternative allotment site. The Council had always pressed for a regular Fire Brigade, although to a certain extent Billericay would rely on the new Basildon Fire Station for extra assistance in a serious fire.

Q:- "Have the Council any proposals for making Chapel Street a one-way street?"

A:- Mrs. C. J. Gadson said that all aspects of Chapel Street would be considered by the Works Committee in a few months time, when Hillside Road was made up.

Also, at the Press Conference, a clarification of projects at Lake Meadows was obtained, another question on Press Relations was answered in debate, and there was no time to answer a question of the move of certain Council departments back to Billericay.

BUS COMPANY THREAT TO WITHDRAW SERVICE.

It was revealed at the recent Council Press Conference, that the Eastern National Bus Company have threatened to withdraw the 34 and 34a services if they are not allowed to turn at Billericay Church. The Police feel that if the buses went round via Chapel Street, Sun Street, and High St., traffic congestion would be added to, and the Bus Company blame the parked cars. Attempts are being made to find a satisfactory solution to this problem.

SPIRELLA RESIDENT CORSETIERE

MRS. W. LENNON

"Danwyn", Beaufort Road, Billericay.

Phone Billericay 1827.

MADE-TO-MEASURE FASHION FOUNDATIONS
AND SWIMSUITS

My advice on your corsetry problems is
always available without obligation.

HOLIDAY FLAT

BEXHILL-ON-SEA, Sussex. Furnished
holiday flat to let by the week. Near
Sea, shops, and the De La Warr Pavilion.
Will sleep eight persons.

APPLY:- "Trees", Stock Road, Billericay.
(next door to Mr. Jarvis's nurseries).
Telephone:- Billericay 192.

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.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION HELD AT ALL PORTS FOR IMMEDIATE OFFER.

Apply:- FRED HUNTER LIMITED, 87, BISHOPGATE, LONDON, E.C.2. or
phone AVENUE 5524 or BILLERICAY 1457.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:-

JOHN E. KIMBER

67, HIGH STREET,

BILLERICAY.

Phone:- 1035.

A RECORD OF EVERY OCCASION

PORTRAITS
CHILD STUDIES
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
WEDDINGS, PASSPORTS
COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES INVITED

BILLERICAY O.A.P.'s.

11th January (Summary).

There was a long list of sick members, and they were all wished a very speedy recovery. Mr. Ramage had been transferred to Black Notley, Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Osmond were in hospital. Mrs. Betram was very ill with bronchitis. Mrs. Candler and Mrs. Shiner were improving. Two new members were welcomed. Grace Walker's Concert Party entertained.

18th January.

There was an excellent attendance. In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Riches, Mr. Dawkins officiated. Sick members were all wished a speedy recovery and Mr. & Mrs. Shiner were both welcomed back after being away ill several weeks. Owing to illness the visiting Concert Party were unable to come along, so the Branch's Concert Party entertained.

25th January.

There was a fair attendance. Mr. Riches, Secretary, was still away sick. There was a long list of sick members, who were wished a very speedy recovery. Mrs. Harrison was now out of hospital and a little better; Mrs. Gray had been taken to Orsett Hospital. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. J. Clarke, who was 80, and Mrs. Porter. Entertainment was provided by the Kings Road, Brentwood, Concert Party, Mrs. Rodgers being the leader. Tea hostesses were Mesdames Little, Fee, and Gilbert. Members going on holiday to Yarmouth were requested to pay the 10/- deposit.

CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- February 5th, Holy Communion
9.30 a.m. February 12th, Family Matins,
9.30 a.m.

Young Wives Fellowship:- January 31st
2.15 p.m. "Among Ourselves". February
14th, 8 p.m. "Marriage Guidance".

G O O D S P E E D S

1, CHAPEL STREET
(Opposite War Memorial)

WET, DRIED, & FRIED
FISH CATERER.

Established 35 years.

EXPERT FISH FRYER.

SMOKED HADDOCK A SPECIALITY.

FROZEN FOODS STOCKED.

OPEN ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
UNTIL 9.0 p.m.

Phone Billericay 280.

COSTS ARE RISING, THE EVENING & SUNDAY PAPERS HAVE GONE UP IN PRICE, PAPERS HAVE DISAPPEARED OR BEEN MERGED, THERE ARE TAKE-OVER BIDS AND MERGERS BETWEEN COMPANIES BUT THE "BILLERICAY OBSERVER" REMAINS INDEPENDENT OF COMBINES AND POLITICAL PARTIES AND STILL COSTS ONLY 1½d FOR THE BEST LOCAL NEWS SERVICE. BUY ISSUE NO. 79 (February 14th) FROM YOUR NEWSAGENT - BUY EARLY BEFORE ALL COPIES ARE SOLD.

"SPORTS OBSERVER".

Billericay Town Sports Club:-

21st Jan. - 1st XI beat Maldon 3-1 at home in CMEP.

21st Jan. - 2nd XI lost at home to Beacon Hill 5-6 in CME2.

28th Jan. - 2nd XI lost away to Witham 1-5 in CME2.

The first team are fourth from bottom in CMEP. The second team are fourth from bottom in CME2.

CMEP - Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, Premier Division.

CME2 - Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, Second Division.

CINEMA GUIDE, RITZ CINEMA, CHAPEL ST., BILLERICAY.

Monday Jan. 30th - 3 Days, Ian Carmichael, Tommy Steele in "LIGHT UP THE SKY", (A), Also "THE BIG DAY" (A).

Thursday Feb. 2nd - 3 Days, Kenneth Connor, Joan Simms, in "WATCH YOUR STERN" (U). Also "CLUE OF THE TWISTED CANDLE", (U).

Monday Feb. 6th - 3 Days, Joachim Hansen, Peter Carsten in "BATTLE INFERNO", (A). Also "THE BEATNIKS", (A).

Thursday Feb. 9th - 3 Days, Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine in "THE APARTMENT" (A), also "PLAYGROUND SPECTACULAR", (A). Special All-U Programme Saturday Matinee (2.15 p.m.)

ESSEX RATEPAYERS TO MEET IN BILLERICAY

The Essex Federation of Ratepayers, Residents and Kindred Associations is to hold its Annual General Meeting at the Council Chamber, Billericay on Saturday 11th February. The Billericay Residents' Association, which affiliated to the federation a short while ago are organising the meeting.

FORMATION OF NEW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of Buttsbury Residents Association on Monday 6th February at Buttsbury School, members will discuss the formation of a Buttsbury Community Association to organise the building of the planned Buttsbury Community Centre, which has been approved by Essex County Council. Also under discussion will be the railway service, accommodation at Buttsbury Primary School, and closer ties with Billericay Residents' Association.

A party organised by the Association at the Rose Hall on the 21st of January was attended by 74 children of members. A social for members was held in the evening.

NEWS & NOTES.

The speaker at the Women's Co-op Guild on 18th January was Mrs. Fayne of the Management Committee of the London Co-operative Society, and her subject was the work of the Public Relations Officer.

The Billericay Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild first met on the 14th September, 1960. Weekly meetings have been held on Wednesdays (2.30-4.0 p.m.) in the Co-op Hall. At their meeting on 25th January they were formally affiliated to the national organisation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.
Council Meeting - The next Council Meeting will be held at the Timberlog Lane Secondary Modern School, Basildon at 6.45 p.m.
C.P.R.E. - Billericay Group A.G.M., W.I. Hall, Saturday January 25th, 3 p.m.

MATTHEWS

25/27 HIGH STREET

A RANGE OF OVER 200 LINES
OF CONFECTIONERY - GIFT
BOXES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

"NEILSONS" ICE CREAM

QUEENS PARK STORES

SPAR GROCERS

III PERRY STREET

BILLERICAY

DAILY DELIVERY SERVICE

PHONE BILLERICAY 527.

OFFERS AVAILABLE UNTIL FEB. 4th.

- SAVE 3d - OLD ENGLISH MARMALADE, 1/6d FOR ONLY 1/3d.
- SAVE 4d - GAIETY PINEAPPLE PIECES, 1/6d FOR ONLY 1/2d.
- SAVE 3½d - ITALIAN TOMATOES, 1/2d FOR ONLY 10½d.
- SAVE 3d - M and D FAMILY FAVOURITES, 1/3d FOR ONLY 1/-.
- SAVE 2d - M and D RICH TEA FINGERS, 9½d FOR ONLY 7½d.
- SAVE 3d - 16 oz. PRUNES IN SYRUP, 1/6d FOR ONLY 1/3d.
- SAVE 7d - P.D. CUSTARD DRUMS, 1/7d FOR ONLY 1/-.
- SAVE 3½d - FOSTER CLARK JELLIES, 9½d FOR ONLY 6d.
- SAVE 3d - PIED PIPER WINTER MIXTURE, 1/9d FOR ONLY 1/6d.
- SAVE 3d - PIED PIPER CARLTON MIXTURE, 1/9d FOR ONLY 1/6d.

OFFERS AVAILABLE FROM FEB 6th to 18th.

SAVE 3d - LIBBYS 16 oz. PINE SLICES
1/8d FOR ONLY 1/5d.

SAVE 6d - LIBBYS RED SALMON, 4/9d
FOR ONLY 4/3d.

SAVE 11d - ROBINSONS LEMON BARLEY
3/3d FOR ONLY 2/4d.

SAVE 6d - 2½ LIBBYS CAP PEACHES,
3/- FOR ONLY 2/6d.

SAVE 1½d - JIF LEMONS, 1/- FOR
ONLY 10½d.

SAVE 4½d - BIRDS CUSTARD DRUMS,
1/8½d FOR ONLY 1/4d.

SAVE 4d.

MARRIAGES S.R. FLOUR 31b 1/10d FOR ONLY 1/6d.

SAVE 1d.

MARRIAGES S.R. FLOUR 11b 8d FOR ONLY 7d.

SAVE 4d.

MARRIAGES S.R. FLOUR 31b PLAIN 1/10d FOR ONLY 1/6d.

BILLERICAY IN THE PAST

by W.P.G.
No.14.

1900 to 1961.

In this, the last article of the present series, it was thought appropriate to review the last sixty years in Billericay, a period which has been hardly touched on in these articles, except for the account of the shooting down of the Zeppelin.

In 1901 we find that Billericay (excluding Great Burstead Parish) had a population of 1,859 including the Workhouse (now St. Andrews Hospital). Billericay was the head of a Union, for workhouse purposes. Later it became the head town of the extensive Billericay Rural District.

The First World War did little to disturb the peace and calm of Billericay, except when the Zeppelin came down at South Green. However, several Billericay men lost their lives fighting in this War, and in 1921 a crowd of 2,000 saw the War Memorial unveiled, at the corner of Chapel Street and High Street.

Billericay was a medium sized town and shortly after the 1914-18 War its first paper - the "Billericay Times" - was started by Mr. A.H. Collins in conjunction with a printing business. The paper was printed in a brick building on the hill leading from the Station to the High Street, now Stanfords, Builders. The paper remained in the ownership of Mr. Collins until during the 2nd World War when it was in danger of extinction, and was acquired by the present owners. Following the change of ownership, it was printed from Laindon.

In 1927 Billericay was once again shaken out of its state of calm, and became an object of national interest, as a result of its connection with the murder of P.C. Gutheridge. The murderers visited the town, and stole a car from a bungalow in Mountnessing Road, near the junction with London Road. After they had driven some distance, P.C. Gutheridge stopped them, and it was then that they murdered him. The Police set up their Headquarters in the Red Lion Hotel in the High Street.

In the years between the Wars a great sense of community spirit prevailed, and numerous clubs and organisations flourished. Carnivals, in aid of various local causes, were held regularly during the 1920's and 30's. In the early 1930's the Archer Church Hall was completed.

In 1933 cottages in Western Road, near the junction with the High Street were destroyed by fire, and the fronts of the cottages opposite were scorched. Billericay Fire Brigade had been established for a considerable time, and had its headquarters in Chapel Street. For the majority of its existence it was under the direction of Capt. Wheatley. The scale of charges can be seen in Billericay's Cater Museum. During the war the Fire Brigade had their headquarters at Ellis's Garage in Sun Street, after which they moved to their present headquarters, the old British Legion Hall in Western Road.

In 1938 at Easter, Billericay's Cinema the Ritz, in Chapel Street was opened. It was described as a "cosy" cinema, which could seat 650 people.

The population of Billericay had not grown a great deal, but in 1934 it became head of the new Billericay Urban District.

During the Second World War, Billericay did not receive any planned bombing, but it was in the path of raiders on London, and often odd bombs were dropped by fleeing enemy planes. In the first eighteen months of the Second World War 103 bombs exploded in the Billericay area. However, the majority of these fell on farmland. One of the most serious attacks was when an enemy plane machine gunned a train going from Shenfield to Billericay, and then dive bombed Harts Corner, flattening a house, and killing several soldiers. An incident which could have been very serious, was when a plane dropped two land mines, one on South Green, and one on the High Street. The Land Mine dropped on the High Street, was exploded in mid-air by the Hurlocks Gun Tower, and as a result the damage was negligible. If the bomb had exploded on the ground, most of the centre of the High Street would have been destroyed. An Allied Plane crashed near the Archer Hall in 1943.

After the War there was talk of Billericay becoming an overspill town for London. In 1955 there was strong opposition to the Walthamstow Estate. Again in 1955 there was strong opposition to changing the name of the Urban District from Billericay to Basildon. Meanwhile the bulldozers got to work, and the new estates sprang up, and in five years the population has doubled (now 15,400) and the character of the town has changed. In 1930 the walk from the town to Perry Street was a country walk as recommended in local guides, but now it goes past industrial and residential estates. Billericay has changed, and it will continue to change a great deal - let us hope for the better!