

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday April 25th.

1½D

Edition Number 85.



OYER, ALL THE
LOCAL NEWS.

COUNCIL ASK FOR MORE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Basildon Council, who recently took over delegated Education functions, are asking the County Council to provide more school accommodation in Billericay, because of the increase in the estimated population.

The Council's Education Committee state that present indications showed that the ultimate population of the Town Map area would be such as to require the provision of the equivalent of ten annual forms of entry, necessitating considerable re-planning of the future building programme.

The Committee have asked the County Education Committee to provide a two-form entry infants' school on the Sunnymede School site (240 places), and a two-form entry infants' school on the South Green site (240 places), in lieu of the tentatively agreed three-form entry junior school (480 places) to be provided on a site to be decided during 1962/3. They have also asked the Education Committee to acquire a site of 4½ acres for a two-form entry junior school in the Buttsbury area, as near to the existing school as possible, and to reserve an area of just over 6 acres for a future school in the Buttsbury area. On playing fields they have asked the County Education Committee to acquire 3 acres for playing fields as near as possible to the existing South Green School.

On Secondary Schools they have recommended the County Education Committee to increase the Billericay Secondary School and the Mayflower Secondary School (to be built in Stock Road in 1961/2) from four-form entry to five-form entry, to provide a total annual ten-form entry, with a corresponding increase in site areas.

However, the South Green Committee of Billericay Residents' Association are far from satisfied with the accommodation situation in South Green. They are holding a census of all schoolchildren and children below school age in South Green, so that they can work out the school places required, and add force to their arguments with the education authorities. A few months ago when it was revealed that the new school at South Green was too small to take all the local children because of an error they threatened to keep their children away from school unless certain demands were met. The South-East Essex Divisional Executive decided to provide a school bus for 5 to 7 year olds attending Billericay Primary School, but a further request for a bus for over 7's has been refused. The education authorities have indicated, however, that they are prepared to erect temporary classrooms at South Green, so that children will not have to walk dangerous Bell Hill.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

RELIEF ROAD TO GO VIA PERRY STREET AND
TYE COMMON ROAD - BUT COUNCIL HAVE
SECOND THOUGHTS.

At their recent meeting the Development & Planning Committee decided to recommend to Basildon Council that the views of the County Council be sought on a relief road from Laindon Road to Tye Common Road and thence by Mountnessing Road and Perry Street to Stock Road. However at their meeting at Billericay last Thursday week the Council had second thoughts on the matter, and decided unanimously to refer the matter back to the Development & Planning Committee.

Moving reference back Cllr.A.P.Phelps said; "Some people will not consider that this is a good idea at all - everything going to bypass the High Street. With new Car Parks and "No Waiting" orders the High Street will be wide enough to deal with any increase in traffic. I don't agree with the back door methods that have been used - the matter has been decided in a few weeks. The people of Billericay have a right to know of important proposals and I am not at all happy about this. It is of vital importance to the traders for it will put their trade down".

Cllr.Mrs.C.J.Gadson, Vice-Chairman commented; "It is incorrect to say that this has been minimised. It has never been decided what will happen to the traffic from Upper Mayne. We have seen Wickford High Street mucked about and we don't want the same to happen in Billericay."

Cllr.A.P.Phelps summed up by saying that it was his idea in the first place. However, it was a very serious matter, and should not be hurried at all.

Reference back was carried unanimously.

TORIES HOLD BILLERICAY NORTH IN COUNTY ELECTIONS.

In the County Elections last Saturday week the Conservatives held Billericay North (Billericay & Wickford) with an increased majority. The result was:-

Coker (Con.) 3,624

Payne (Lab.) 1,832

Con. majority 1,792.

At a by-election two years ago the Con. majority was 878, 914 less. The poll percentage was slightly higher. A large Labour majority at Billericay South-West (Laindon) was turned into a Conservative majority of 200. This one of the many seats gained by the Conservatives, who once again control the County Council.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NORSEY WOODS.

Dear Sir, ---- I feel that an even closer watch must be kept on the future of this stretch of natural woodland. Already inroads have been made, and now a water tower is to be built. While I agree that this is necessary to a growing district care should be taken to retain some historical and natural surroundings in the district - "South Green Reader" (Name and Address supplied).

PRESEVATION OF TREES.

Dear Sir, ---- Has anyone, except the Council and the officers concerned, seen the plan for the Car Park behind the Council Offices in the High Street? I doubt it! Would the C.P.R.E., of which I am a member, accepted without a protest the wholesale destruction of the trees? This week apples, lilacs, hazels, and ilex - all in flower - have been grabbed up and burnt. Even those who clamour for the Car Park, could have hardly wanted it at the cost of so much beauty. I tried to get a reprieve for a very large and lovely apple tree tall enough to have in no way interfered with parking, but was told politely but very firmly that the plan was fixed and the plan said the tree must go - anyway the Council owned the land and could do what they pleased with it - tantamount to "Mind your own business!" Whose land? I had thought that a Local Authority held the stewardship for the ratepayers! How naive can one be? There must be something very wrong that a "plan" can be so rigid as to take no account of beauty. A.D., Chapel St., Billericay.

We try to give all points of view a hearing, and the letters published do not necessarily agree with the policy of the paper. When using a nom-de-plume please give full name and address.

ART CLUB EXHIBITION.

The 4th Annual Exhibition of Billericay Art Club at the "Old Shambles", Billericay was opened on Saturday by Mrs.A.M.Cater. There are about 120 entries in this year's exhibition, about the same as last year. All exhibits are the work of amateurs. The exhibition will be open all this week.

NOAK HILL ROAD - "DO SOMETHING BEFORE SOMEBODY IS KILLED".

Speaking at the recent Council Meeting Cllr. A.P. Phelps said; "A great danger exists along Noak Hill Road. We must do something about improving it, without waiting for somebody to get killed, and then making up this heavily used road".

It was decided that the Clerk should approach Mr. Gardner Q.C. M.P. for Billericay asking him to support the Council's request that early authorisation be given to Phase I and Phase II of the Scheme. It was also agreed that if necessary the Ministry be asked to receive a deputation from the Council to discuss the improvement of Noak Hill Road.

COUNCIL UNDERTAKING MORE WORK THAN EVER BEFORE IN ITS HISTORY.

Reviewing the work of Basildon Council in the past year at last Thursday week's Council Meeting, Councillor W.H. Davies J.P. Chairman stated that the Council were undertaking and initiating a greater volume of work than ever before in its history.

Referring to development Cllr. Davies said that 1,935 houses had been built in the Urban District. 7 factories had been completed on the Billericay Industrial Estate.

The Council had spent £1,755,000 - this figure included the County Precept, capital payments, and advances to house purchasers. The Council had increased the number of appointments on their staff to 168, and had established a separate Housing Department, as a result of the O & M Report. The report paid tribute to the basic organisation and work of the staff.

Very satisfactory progress had been maintained on the provision of basic services. Three large sewerage schemes were in course of execution. Salvage collection was made from over 26,000 properties. There were 23 streets in the first Private Street Works programme, 12 in the second, and 41 in the third.

WOMEN'S CO-OP GUILD.

At the 10th April meeting members discussed Congress resolutions on a wide range of subjects including peace, pensions, education, capital punishment, and hooliganism. On the 17th Mrs. Sewey reported on the International Congress of Women's Co-op Guilds, which she had attended.

ROAD WAS NEARLY BUILT THE WRONG WAY!

When walking down Hill House Drive, Billericay recently Mr. D. Bird, Secretary of the Frontagers' Committee noticed that the new road was being built to one side. The one concession that the frontagers gained from the Council after months of argument was that the road should be centrally placed. After making enquiries Mr. Bird found that the contractors had been issued with the wrong plans - the original ones. He got in touch with the Council Chairman who stopped work on the road. It is now being re-constructed on the new plans.

Mr. Bird is very annoyed about the error. Speaking at a Press Conference last week he said; "There was first talk of this road being made up 25 years ago. Then two years ago the Council announced their intention of making the road up. The provisional apportionments showed that some people would be paying as much as £400 for their frontage, so we were naturally anxious to get the cheapest road possible. The Council refused to provide alternative specifications for the cost of a concrete and tarmacadam surface. Several months of argument followed (and a Court case) and we gained one concession - the road would be centrally placed. We might have lost this concession if it had not been spotted at an early stage in the construction of the road and the error nipped in the bud. Mr. Bird emphasised that the frontagers had never been against the make-up of the road. Their one aim was to get the best and cheapest road possible, and they were particularly concerned because their road was one of the first to be made up in the district and would set the standard for the other roads.

Mr. Bird went on; "We feel that the frontagers should have a choice of the type of road, and that the Council should provide conclusive proof - i.e. alternative specifications - that one surface is cheaper. When we asked questions the Council replied with a lot of rubbish or technical jargon".

Mr. Bird concluded; "Who is responsible for this mistake with the plans. If the Council are the ratepayers will have to foot the bill, and this gives cause for concern".

EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

"Billericay Observer",
143, Perry Street,
Billericay,
Essex.

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

You have probably already noticed that the layout of the paper has been changed. The object of these changes is to improve the appearance of the paper. One of the main alterations is the moving of the "Wanderer" article from Page 2 to Page 10. The idea is that by the time readers come to this article they will have read all the news, and it will therefore not be necessary for "Wanderer" to repeat the news in his column. Another major change is the new title, and the typing across all the front page. Also three spaces are being left after full stops, and one space after commas. A new feature - "For The Old Folk" - appears on Page 5, and some advertisements have changed their positions. If you have any comments on this new layout, or any suggestions for further improvements please let me know.

----- The Editor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

22nd to 29th April, 1961:- Billericay Art Club Annual Exhibition of Paintings and Pottery at the "Old Shambles Hotel", High Street, Billericay. Open until 9 p.m.

Sunday April 30th:- Cricket Match between St. Johns Sports Association, and Don Watt's XI (including Essex players). Commencing 2.30 p.m. at Willowbrook Sports Ground, Stock Rd.

Thursday May 4th:- Billericay Town Sports Club Annual General Meeting, at the Crown Hotel, Billericay, commencing at 7.45 p.m. sharp.

Thursday 4th May to Saturday 6th May:- Billericay Folk Players present "Night Was Our Friend", a play in two acts, at the Archer Memorial Hall, Billericay. Curtain up 8 p.m.
Advance Booking Office:- The Candy Box, 51b High Street, Billericay.
Tickets 5/- and 3/6d (children half-price).

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ADVERTISEMENT RATES from the Editor.

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Members 2/-, non-members 2/6d.
Members competition "May-Day" an all
white arrangement with natural foilage.
All enquiries to the Hon. Secretary,
Mrs. P. Clayton, 41 Hillside Road,
Billericay.

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P - 12th April Meeting.

98 were present. On sick members it was stated that Mr. Maxwell was in hospital; Mrs. F. Gray and Mr. Hall were not quite so well; Mrs. Osmond and Mrs. Darling were improving. All were wished a speedy recovery. Birthday honours were accorded Mr. Riches (Secretary), Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Rackham and Mr. Newell. Entertainment was provided by the "Variety Key Notes".

Billericay O.A.P.- 19th April Meeting.

99 were present. On sick members Mr. Ramage was improving; Mr. Maxwell was about the same; Mrs. Candler and Mrs. Osmond were improving; Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Rowe, and Mr. Hall were not quite so well. Mrs. Darling, Mrs. Bertram, and Mr & Mrs. Sadler were welcomed back after absence through illness. Mr. Rogers from the Area Council called in unexpectedly and gave a talk. The Secretary gave details of forthcoming outings, and announced that Mrs. Darling was being made a Life Member on reaching the grand old age of 90 years. Entertainment was provided by the well-known "Crackerjacks" Concert Party. Tea hostesses for both meetings were Mesdames Johnson, Bradley, and Vivash.

Buttsbury Monday Club - 17th April Meeting.

30 people attended the first ordinary meeting of Buttsbury Monday Club at Buttsbury School. It was decided that subscription would be 2d a week and that surplus garden produce would be sold to help with funds - £2 to date. An appeal was made for speakers with colour slides and films to entertain. Members ended the meeting by playing various games.

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DAVIES ON "FURNITURE, FASHION, AND
'FRIDGES".

"SPORTS OBSERVER"

BOTH BILLERICAY TEAMS RELEGATED.

Both teams of Billericay Town Sports Club will play in lower divisions next season - if they compete at all. The 1st XI lost at home 3-4 to Little Waltham on April 12th, and although they beat Little Waltham away 4-1 on the 15th, and have one more game to play relegation is certain from the Premier Division of the Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League to the 1st Division. The Reserves lost away 0-4 to Roxwell, and although they have one more game to play, they are certain to be relegated from the 2nd Division to the 3rd Division.

The Billericay Charity Cup Final, between Wernick Wanderers and Wickford takes place at the Archer Hall Field on Saturday the 29th. Admission 1/- all proceeds to Charity.

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

Monday April 24th (3 Days):- Anthony Newley, Anne Aubrey in "LET'S GET MARRIED" (A). Also "COVER GIRL KILLER" (A).

Thursday April 27th (3 Days):- "THE GIANT OF MARATHON" (U). Also "THE LAW AND JAKE WADE" (U).

Monday May 1st (3 Days):- Doris Day in "MIDNIGHT LACE" (A). Also "ECHO OF BARBARA" (A).

Thursday May 4th (3 Days):- Tony Curtis, Edmond O'Brien in "THE GREAT IMPOSTOR" (U). Full supporting programme.

Sunday Programmes.

SHOP DECORATION COMPETITION IN CARNIVAL

At last Wednesday's meeting of Billericay Carnival Committee it was agreed to make an award for the best decorated shop in the spirit of Carnival, on the procession route.

It was reported that the Eastern National Bus Co. would endeavour to supplement services from Basildon on Carnival Day should the need arise.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE VIEWED.

Over 500 people looked round Billericay Telephone Exchange during the week April 10th - 15th - National Telephone Week. A special model demonstrating how the Telephone Service works was on view.

HAS 41 PEOPLE WAITING WITH SPADES.

Speaking at the Council Meeting Cllr. J.J.A. Tesoirere said that he had 41 people who wanted allotments in Billericay - "waiting with their spades to move the earth." Cllr. Tesoirere said that he hoped that the Council would press for alternative allotments to replace those to be taken up by the new Fire Station in Laindon Road.

In reply it was stated that negotiations were proceeding regarding allotments in the Perry Street area, and that the Council would press for alternative allotment space.

HORTICULTURAL MEETING.

Members of Billericay Horticultural Society enjoyed a talk given by Mr. J.G. Newis on Dahlia Growing and Showing at the W.I. Hall on April 17th. Mr. Newis is a well-known horticultural consultant.

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The "BILLERICAY OBSERVER" announces its MYSTERY Story Contest.

Rules for the MYSTERY Story Award, 1961.

1. The prizes will be:-
1st - £3. £1 each for the next best two.
2. The contest may be entered by any "Observer" reader in the age group of 11 to 19 years.
3. Manuscripts submitted by the 31st May 1961 will be eligible.
The names of the prizewinners will be announced in the issue of July 4th.
4. Manuscripts should be no longer than 8,000 words and no shorter than 3,500 words. They should be written on one side of paper only. And they MUST be in the ENGLISH Language.
As the Editor cannot be responsible for loss of manuscripts the author should be careful to retain a carbon copy if he/she wish to hold a record of their story.
5. The prize winning mystery will be chosen by Miss M.V. Woodgate novelist, Cliff Richard, and the Editor of the "Billericay Observer". All manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor, "Billericay Observer".
6. If in the opinion of the Judges no manuscript submitted merits the prize, the Editor of the "Billericay Observer" reserves the right to make no award.

ENTRY FORM.

I herewith submit a manuscript tentatively entitled.

.....
under the terms and conditions announced for the MYSTERY Story Award.
I agree to be bound by the said terms, and the Award or the decision made by the Judges.

The manuscript consists of pages and approximately words. The material submitted is original with me and has not previously been published in whole or part. There is no hindrance to my entry being published, and no other person or publisher has any right or title in or to the said material or manuscript.

signed

Author's name

(Please type or print in ink.)

Address

Age of entrant yrs.

..... mths. on the

31st May, 1961.

Those under fifteen require parent or teacher to certify that the work is all your own:

I hereby certify that this is the unaided work of the entrant
..... (insert name of entrant).

signed

status Mother
 Father
 Godparent
 School Teacher

This entry form will be repeated in at least one issue before the closing date. Copies may be obtained on production of Entry Form coupon.

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"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST".

by the Editor. Series 2. No.2.

One of the greatest puzzles that surrounds the history of Billericay is the origin and development of the name of the town. Even the English Place Name Society have failed.

There are many suggestions for the name in Roman days. One is that it came from Bell Hill, which is said to be connected with Sun Worship, and is in a similar position to Bell Hill at Vange. "Villa Erica" - the town on the heath -, Bellerius Bastion - camp of a Roman General Bellerius, Bello Castrum - Fair Camp - are other suggestions. It is thought that one of these names became corrupted to "Belcaire" by Norman-French influence.

The Essex Historian Morant (late 18th Century) supports another theory. He calls the town Billerica, and says that in 1343 it was called Beleuca, Baleuga, or Banleuga, denoting a territory round a borough or manor - in French Banlieu.

It was also called by the names Byliricay, Billerykay, and Billeryke in the Middle Ages.

In 1594 John Norden on his map calls it Billerecrais, and in 1601 it is referred to as Billerecay. Towards the end of the 17th Century it is called Billericay on several maps and records. One map records it as Billericay alias Build Upon Cave - yet another suggestion. It has always been said that there are caves below Billericay, and it is thought a lot of passages. The late Fred Eales said that he had been in the caves, and that the entrance was in the cellars of Burstead House - now demolished and used by a garage. And on one occasion many years ago a horse and cart going along the road to the Chantry Estate fell into a hole which suddenly appeared. The ground in this area has a hollow ring.

One thing is certain - in the old days of illiteracy there were probably many spellings and pronounciations of the name of our town, but the origin of the name remains an unsolved mystery.

SOUTH DEVON COAST, LADRAM BAY.

4 BERTH MODERN CARAVAN TO LET, 2 MINS. SEA, JUNE OR JULY, OR B.B., EVENING MEAL AT OWNER'S HOME. APPLY - BLACK 12, DUKES ROAD, BUDLEIGH SALTERTON, DEVON.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

Fortunately the By-Pass was not passed without comment at the Council Meeting, as so often happens. The By-Pass is of vital importance to the people of Billericay and they should be given the chance to express their views on it.

In my opinion it would be costly and dangerous. Firstly a road has got to be constructed from the Laindon Road to Tye Common Road. The cost of constructing such a road would be very high, and would involve the acquisition of land, and possibly the demolition of properties. Secondly the traffic would have to turn out of Tye Common Road into London Road, and then after a very short distance turn again into Mountnessing Road, thus creating a danger. Thirdly Mountnessing Road would have to be widened, and the railway bridge is too small. Fourthly Perry Street would have to be widened, and there would be danger to pupils attending Buttsbury Primary School. Fifthly the traders in the High Street would lose money.

Is a By-Pass or relief road really necessary? Provided Noak Hill Road is improved, and car parking restrictions are introduced in the High Street I say NO.

The news that Hill House Drive was nearly constructed the wrong way is very alarming. This must never happen again. The Council would have saved time and expense, and satisfied the frontagers if they had produced alternative specifications in the early stages of the negotiations.

Last time I complemented the Council on their handling of the Norsey Woods Water Tower dispute. The hearing has now been heard - but the Press were not admitted. I will say no more.

It is most interesting to note the reactions of the two main political parties to the entry of Independent candidates into the Council Election field. Apparently they think that they have an exclusive right to sit on the Council -- "Wanderer".

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