

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday May 23rd, 1961.

Number 87.



1 1/2D



"Billericay Observer".

"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

## BLAZE AT HOSPITAL — PATIENTS EVACUATED

Five fire engines from Billericay, Laindon, and Brentwood fought a blaze at St. Andrews Hospital, Billericay, last Tuesday. The fire was in a building which was being converted into nurses' accommodation, over the Hospital's Maternity Ward. Nine patients were evacuated from the Ward by doctors and nurses.

The alarm was raised at just before 7.0 p.m. by a worker in the boiler house, who saw smoke coming from the building. Billericay Fire Brigade were soon on the scene, but by this time 10ft high flames and clouds of black smoke were leaping from the roof, so another four appliances were called. Firemen had to remove the roof of the building before they could get at the source of the fire. However, the fire had a strong hold, and despite the efforts of the firemen, the building was gutted. Firemen remained on the scene of the fire until after midnight, and made a return visit to check that there had not been any further outbreak of fire.

Police warned motorists of the hoses running across Norsey Road, and operated a system of single file traffic. A large crowd gathered in Norsey Road, which the gutted building faces.

The cause of the fire is not yet known, and no estimate of the damage caused is available.

### COUNCIL ELECTIONS - CHAIRMAN DEFEATED.

In the Basildon Council Elections last Saturday week the Chairman of the Council for the past two years, Mr. W. H. Davies J.P., was defeated in Billericay Ward by Cllr. H. E. Wilkins, the Residents' Association candidate. In last year's elections Cllr. Wilkins was over 200 votes behind the Conservatives, but this year he had a majority of 595 over Mr. Davies. When the result was announced at Craylands Secondary School, Basildon, on Saturday night, Cllr. Wilkins's supporters went wild with enthusiasm, and the Labour contingent applauded. When Mr. Davies first tried to address the 300 people crowded in the gymnasium he was shouted down and booed. When order was eventually restored Mr. Davies, who was first elected in 1953 said; "I cannot pretend that I am not dissatisfied with the result of the election. However clever we think we are, however big we think we are, the ballot box brings us down to size. The electorate is the hardest taskmaster of all. However, I shall be back".

Cllr. Wilkins told the "Observer"; "I am very pleased with the result. I am sure that my victory reflects the present feeling of the electorate. People are beginning to realise that local government is "big" business, which affects in many ways our surroundings, amenities, and future. Our policy is one of common sense. However, our victory would not have been possible if were not for our many hard workers".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.

Page 1.



# CONSERVATIVES RETAIN CONTROL OF COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1.

Despite their loss at Billericay the Conservatives retained control of the Council, with an increased majority, as they gained three seats from Labour in Basildon. The constitution of the new Council is:-

Conservatives -- 18  
Labour ----- 9  
Independent R.A. 1

Before the first results were chalked up Mr.A.Hatt, Returning Officer, gave a talk on the election. Referring to the Billericay contest he said that since the war no Council Chairman had been on the Council the year after he stood for election. All the Chairman had either been defeated or had resigned.

The first result was announced at 9.50 p.m., and the last - from Wickford - just before 11.0 p.m.

In a three-cornered fight at Vange Cllr.R.R.Rice retained his seat with a large majority. Second was the Independent (Rev.Ronald Gibbins) and last was the Conservative candidate (Mr.H.Dixon). At Pitsea Kevin Cardy (Conservative) captured the seat from Labour, and at 21 he will be the youngest Councillor ever! The Communist candidate in Barstable failed dismally - he polled less than 70 votes. One of the most exciting contests was at Langdon Hills, where the Conservative (Mrs.B.Taylor) was elected by a majority of two votes, after a recount. Three years ago her Labour opponent, Mr.B.H.Smart was elected with a majority of three votes.

The Conservatives now have the largest majority of any party for several years. Favourites for the position of Chairman are Cllr.Mrs.C.J. Gadson (who was re-elected at Wickford) and Cllr.A.P.Phelps of Billericay. Cllr.Mrs.Gadson is Vice-Chairman and Cllr.A.P.Phelps, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

## RESULTS IN DETAIL.

### Billericay:-

H.E.Wilkins (R.A.) 2,417  
W.H.Davies (Con.) 1,822  
Gibbs (Lab.) 569  
Rosier (Lib.) 379

Poll 47.67% (50.11% last year).

R.A. GAIN FROM CON. Majority 595.

Continued in Column 2.

## ELECTION RESULTS. Continued from Column I.

### Wickford:-

Mrs.C.J.Gadson (Con.) 1,353  
E.A.Mickleborough (Con.) 1,300  
Chalk (Lab.) 893  
Burnett (Lab.) 847  
Moxey (Lib.) 671  
Evans (Lib.) 620  
Poll 31.3%. No Change.

### Laindon:-

W.C.Redbond (Con.) 813  
J.W.Curtis (Lab.) 733  
Poll 22.8%.  
Con. gain from Lab. - Maj. 80.

### Langdon Hills:-

Mrs.B.Taylor (Con.) 560  
B.H.Smart (Lab.) 558  
Poll 30.5%  
Con. gain from Lab. Majority 2.

### Fryerns:-

Mrs.F.Downey (Lab.) 1,271  
Mrs.G.Taylor (Lab.) 1,211  
G.Children (Con.) 493  
C.Bishop-Lagget (Con.) 471  
Poll 23.3%. No Change.

### Barstable:-

J.Blake (Lab.) 711  
S.Blackbourne (Con.) 505  
B.Davey (Comm.) 69  
Poll 27.8%. No Change.

### Pitsea:-

K.Cardy (Con.) 580  
Mrs.V.Palmer (Lab.) 441  
Poll 20.5%.  
Con. gain from Lab. Maj. 139

### Vange:-

R.Rice (Lab.) 742  
Rev.Ronald Gibbins (Ind.) 367  
H.Dixon (Con.) 328  
Poll 37.3%. No Change.

### Central Ward:- No contest.

## NEW CAR PARK OPEN.

Billericay's temporary Car Park in the High Street is now open to motorists. Entrance is by the old Council Offices, nearly opposite Woolworths. There is no charge.



## RESIDENTS ANGRY ABOUT REMOVAL OF CHILDRENS' PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

The South Green Committee of Billericay Residents' Association are angry about the removal of childrens' playground equipment from South Green Recreation Ground, which took place last Thursday.

When the Residents first heard of the Council's intention to remove the equipment, because the Road Safety Committee said that the ground was dangerous, as children ran into the busy Southend Road through gaps in the hedge the Residents sent off a letter of protest. In this letter they pointed out that the Recreation Ground could be safely and easily reached by children living in the Tyrrells Road area, and on the Bell Hill Estate. However, if the equipment was moved to the Bell Hill Estate as proposed children from the Tyrrells Road area would have to negotiate a dangerous bend in the busy Southend Road to reach the equipment, whereas now they used the comparatively quiet Grange Road. Also the distance would be too great for the younger children, and the re-siting of the equipment would be costly. The Residents suggested that a fence be placed only on the Southend Road side, to overcome the safety hazard.

In their reply the Council stated that children living in the Tyrrells Road area could reach the new site by Hickstars Lane. The reason for moving the equipment was not the dangerous bend, but to make the equipment more accessible to Bell Hill children. They could not agree with the Residents that removing the hedge round the Ground entirely would increase the safety hazard, as children would no longer play there. They had done a similar thing at Bell Hill, and there had been no accidents as a result. Children in the North and Central areas of Billericay had to cross far more dangerous roads to reach Lake Meadows.

Referring to the Council's letter Mr. Featherstone, Chairman of the South Green Committee told the "Observer" that he considered that Hickstars Lane was a highly dangerous road, as it served the Industrial Estate and, as a result, carried a great deal of traffic. It was also narrow, bounded on both sides by hedges, and difficult to cross. Nor could he agree with the Council's views on Grange Road.

CONTINUED IN COLUMN 2.

## RESIDENTS DON'T INTEND TO "LET THINGS REST" - Continued from Column 1

Mr. Featherstone continued; "If the Council are going to compare Grange Road with Southend Road, then they will have to give Grange Road an "A" classification, put it on two main bus routes, and make it a major road to the coast, instead of a service road. The statement that there have been no accidents on Bell Hill since the removal of the hedge is a lot of twaddle - I know of at least one. As for our suggestion that a fence be erected, the Council didn't mention it in their reply. As for the reference to the North & Central areas that is just bad planning - two blacks don't make a white".

Mr. Featherstone concluded; "We are going to press for the playground equipment to be re-erected. Our next step will be to try and get a Council representative down to discuss the matter on the spot".

### FRONTAGERS KNOW WHAT THEY WANT!

The frontagers of Station Road, Billericay, which is shortly to be made up, certainly know what they want! They have sent a 3-page memorandum to the Council on the road.

One of the main points is the use of concrete. The memorandum reads; "Most of us work in the concrete jungle that is London and we chose to live in Billericay in order to get away from such monotony. To build a concrete road anywhere in Billericay shows a lamentable lack of taste, and, possibly, a complete indifference to the wishes of the residents. It seems to us that the next step will be concrete car parks in the High Street, concrete lamp posts, and a concrete water tower in Norsey Woods. Some of these "amentities" result from the desire, rather than need, to make provision for visitors to Billericay, rather than for the residents, for whom in the main the present facilities are inadequate".

The frontagers state they have made enquiries of contracting firms and studied road research publications. They ask for a macadam or asphalt surface as in Western Road, and for alternative specifications.

They also ask that if the road is to be used as a through road, then the amount charged to the frontagers should be less than normal, and the road should be of stronger construction. They also request the Council to change the name of the road, in view of its considerable distance from the Station, which is confusing to visitors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX. Page 3.



### EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

There are only seven days to go before entries for the "Billericay Observer MYSTERY Story Award" close. Judges are Cliff Richard, the pop singer, Miss M.V. Woodgate, novelist, and the Editor of the "Billericay Observer". Entrants are required to write a Mystery Story - only those between the ages of 11 and 19 are allowed to enter. Prizes are £3, and two of £1. The Whitsun School Holidays are now in progress, so if you are between 11 and 19, now's your chance! There is no entry fee, and entry forms can be obtained from the office on production of a copy of the "Billericay Observer", or the coupon printed below.

#### ENTRY FORM COUPON 3.

The accounts system of the "Observer" has been revised, in order to increase its efficiency.

---- The Editor.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Thursday 25th May:- Annual Council Meeting, at Timberlog Lane Secondary School, Basildon.

Saturday June 3rd:- Billericay Fire Station, Western Road, Open Day.

Saturday June 3rd:- Hospital Fete, Archer Hall Field.

Thursday 8th June:- Billericay Business & Professional Women's Club, Informal Meeting, Archer Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. Peter Francis, General Manager and Secretary of the Southend Waterworks Co. will talk (illustrated by films) on "Your Water Supply In Essex".

THE BILLERICAY WOMEN'S CO-OP GUILD  
MEETS ON MONDAYS IN THE CO-OP HALL,  
HIGH ST., 2.30 to 4 p.m. June 5th -  
Consideration of Annual Report from  
Head Office. June 12th - Speaker  
on Manor House Hospital.

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ADVERTISEMENT RATES from the Editor.



# FOR THE OLD FOLK

## Billericay O.A.P. - 10th May Meeting.

94 members were present. On sick members it was reported that Mrs. Roberts had been taken into St. Andrews Hospital, Mr. Ramage was improving, Mrs. Wormald was very ill, Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Shiner were also very ill, Mrs. Stanton, Mr. Emery, and Mr. Hall were improving. Two new members were welcomed. The Secretary gave details of the week's holiday in Yarmouth. Entertainment was given by the Langdon Hills Over 60's Club.

## Billericay O.A.P. - 17th May Meeting.

90 members were present. A minute's silence was observed for Mrs. Roberts, an old member, who had passed away. With regard to the sick members it appeared that Mr. Ramage, Mrs. Wormald, Mrs. Marshall, and Mr. Hall were all a little better. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery to good health. Entertainment was provided by "The Optimists". Tea hostesses for both meetings were Mesdames Lewis, Joseph, and Lamb.

## Buttsbury Monday Club.

On May 8th colour slides of Majorca, Switzerland, and the Wye Valley were shown by Mr. Phillips, with commentary by Mrs. Phillips. Mr & Mrs. Phillips were accorded a vote of thanks for the entertainment. On the 15th a Musical Evening was held, with the Chairman telling monologues etc., and Mrs. B. Barr at the piano. Mrs. Barr was thanked for coming along and helping out. Raffles organised by Mrs. Webb were held at both meetings, resulting in fair sums of money being raised. Both meetings were under the Chairmanship of Mr. Percy Williams.

Sunnymede:- Meeting to form Sunnymede O.A.P. at the School, Meadow Way, on 29th May at 7 p.m. Organised by Old People's Welfare Committee.

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## CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- Sunday June 28th, Family  
Matins, 9.30 a.m. Sunday June 4th,  
Holy Communion, 9.30 a.m.

Young Wives Fellowship:- May 23rd,  
2.15 p.m., Bring & Play your own  
record.



"MAKING-UP OF ROAD MORE THAN A LINE  
ON A MAP" - Continued from Page 3.

The frontagers suggest that the making-up of the road is an ideal opportunity to take the electricity supply underground, thus preventing breaks in supply and voltage fluctuations. On lamp posts they ask that they should be modest in design, and not concrete monoliths devoid of character and at complete variance with their surroundings. On landscaping they ask the Council to undertake a tree or shrub planting scheme, either on the sides of the roads, or on a central island running the whole length of the road, with breaks for crossing traffic, or a continuous green sward.

Summing up the frontagers state; "We do not intend to give an impression of aggressiveness. We do not look upon OUR Council as a bureaucratic body, but rather as a group of hard working individuals, who give various matters as much of their time as they can spare. Nevertheless this exercise is far from being just a line on a map to the frontagers of Station Road, and also because of the substantial financial interest we have in the operation, we are determined to press for the most aesthetic surfacing and landscaping of the road".

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THIS YEAR'S CARNIVAL QUEEN WAS  
ATTENDANT LAST YEAR!

This year's Billericay Carnival Queen, Miss Hilary Ambrose of Crays View, Billericay, a Bank Clerk, age sixteen-and-a-half, was an attendant in last year's Carnival. Her two attendants are Linda Cattell of Hillary Mount, Billericay, age 18, a sixth form student at Rayleigh Sweyne School, and Greta Manning, aged 17, of Queens Park, Billericay.

The Queen and her attendants were selected at the Carnival Dance at the Archer Hall on Saturday, which was attended by over 200 people. Judges were Mr. Harry Warner of Ilford and his wife, and Mr. John Sargeant of Chelmsford, both Round Tablers.

Among the prizes received by the Queen are free clothes, and a free course of driving lessons. The Queen reigns for Carnival Day only, which is Saturday June 24th.

WOMEN'S CO-OP GUILD.

The Guild is visiting Romford on 29th May to see the "show" flats furnished by the London Co-op. It is hoped soon to visit the Mary Macarthur Holiday Home at Stanstead and the L.C.S. store in Oxford Street.

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"SPORTS OBSERVER" and "THE OBSERVER  
CINEMA GUIDE" ARE ON PAGE 8 OF THIS  
ISSUE.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

If you use a nom-de-plume please give your full name and address for office purposes. We try to give all points of view a hearing - letters published do not necessarily express the policy of the paper.

Dear Sir, ---- I am much perturbed by the recent articles in the press on the future of Education in Billericay. It would seem that the new Council Education Committee is to be swayed by local opinion, in to suggesting a series of small schools conveniently placed for parents to "dump" their children.

It would seem more reasonable to consider the question from an educational view. Small conveniently placed schools for infants - yes - Juniors, however, are a different matter.

I suggest:-

- 1) Larger grouping enable provision of facilities to be made, which could not be justified financially unless the numbers to use them were large enough.
- 2) Under the present wage structure the number of extra payments which can be made is governed by size of school, and teachers, being human, the best try and get selected for the higher paid posts i.e. larger school the greater the chance of attracting a better qualified staff.
- 3) Let Billericay not be content to be up-to-date educationally, but to be in advance, and plan for large junior schools with craft rooms, science rooms, art and music rooms - there is more to junior education than the basic subjects as an end in itself.
- 4) And surely the most urgent need is the "modernisation" of the original Billericay School. By far the largest in the area - of good reputation and tradition - but still in antiquated buildings, without a hall - with undersized classrooms.

Build a replacement school for this, retain such of the buildings as are suitable to accommodate the Junior "bulge", until the population stwadies to the "normal", and in one stroke, you give all children in Billericay parity of condition, have extra space available for the extra children, and at no great distance for juniors (after all they will go further in the first year at the Secondary School). ----- "Educator".

Ed; What are your views on this subject? All letters are welcome.

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

Monday May 22nd (3 Days):- John Wayne, Stewart Grainger in "NORTH TO ALASKA", (U). Also "COUNTERFIET".

Thursday May 25th (3 Days):- Norman Wisdom, Ian Hunter in "THE BULLDOG BREED", (U). Also "DUBLIN NIGHTMARE".

Monday May 29th (3 Days):- Jeff Chandler, John Saxon in "THE PLUNDERERS" (A). Also "PAY OR DIE".

Thursday June 1st (3 Days):- Victor Mature in "HANNIBAL", (U). Sunday programmes also.

## "SPORTS OBSERVER".

Lawn Tennis:- The Billericay Lawn Tennis Club was first established before the last war on part of the late Mr. Rickett's land in Mountnessing Road. The club was disbanded at the start of the war. A new tennis club was formed in 1947 called the Western Road Club, and flourished there until 1955, when the land was sold for building purposes. The Club then transferred their ground to the old site in Mountnessing Road, and recovered two grass courts. The Club could not progress until two all weather courts were laid down on the site of the old hard courts, and a grant was obtained from the Playing Fields Association, and loans from members. A small pavilion was erected, temporarily. As the membership grew it became necessary to provide larger accommodation, and a new Pavilion is now under construction, and it is hoped to complete it during the coming season. Much hard work has been expended by all the members to give to the local community facilities for this very popular sport, but like all sports activities today, is being hard hit by the lack of enthusiasm, and other interests such as television. It has a flourishing Junior Section.

Billericay L.T.C. has played in the Brentwood League for some years, and has been very successful, winning the 3rd and 2nd Divisions, and has a team in the 1st Division now, which finished up second last season. This season it has entered three teams, and also has a Friendly Match programme, and Club Championships.

There are vacancies for average Club standard players, and any tennis player will receive a cordial welcome at Billericay Lawn Tennis Club, where there are facilities for the game all the year round.

.....  
As from the next issue it is intended to publish local cricket match scores.



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"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST".

by the Editor. Series 2. No.4.

Alongside Billericay's new Car Park is what was the Clerk's Department of Basildon Urban District Council, but now houses the Health Department.

The earliest date mentioned in the deeds is February 22nd, 1778. The house was probably built about 1750.

The house is of Georgian style, of red brown brick, pebbledashed at the rear. There is a low parapet with projecting cornice below the three lead-covered dormers. There is an open balustraded staircase.

According to the deeds the site was formerly occupied by a building called "The Maidenhead", of which nothing is known. The first owner appears to have been Thomas Wolfe of Saffron Walden, who sold the property to Felton Nelville Esq. It was he who erected the memorial to the Fishpoole family of Hurlocks in Great Burstead Church, and their daughter, Ann Abbot who left the "Fishpoole's Gift" charity. The next owner was Thomas Chaplyn, a Surgeon, who died at the age of 31 from consumption. His memorial tablet in Great Burstead Church bears no reference to his widow but this lady, Jane Chaplyn, married William Whinfield, who owned a considerable amount of property in Essex, and "Barnsley House" passed into his hands. On his death his son sold the house to George Raine, another surgeon in 1854, who stayed there until he died in 1870. He was survived by Mrs. Raine for some years, who in 1887 sold the house to a third doctor J.C. Cresswell "General Medical Practitioner". In 1910 Dr. Cresswell sold the property to Dr. R. Holtby.

Then in 1919 the house was purchased by yet another medical man - Dr. W. Shackleton. He was in joint practice with Dr. Bowesman for a time, who lived nearby at "Lynton House", until he moved to "Grenfell", which he had built, in 1939. Dr. Bowesman left the town a few days ago for a new practice at Oxford. From 1940 to 1945 the property was the local Home Guard Headquarters, when it was bought by the Council. Modern buildings have been erected in the grounds for Council work, and recently a Car Park was constructed in the grounds, but a rare specimen of Ilex has survived.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by  
"WANDERER".

The long-awaited Billericay Car Park is at last open to motorists. Yet although there is no charge, there were only about thirty cars in the Car Park, and the High Street was one long line of cars on both sides. Perhaps the reason was that its existence is not yet known. I hope so. When its facilities are more widely known, I trust that a parking ban will be enforced on stretches of the High Street, and, eventually, when more spaces for cars are available, a complete ban from Monday to Saturday, except for vehicles unloading into shops, for short periods, where there are no back entrances. Such a ban would prove that Billericay High Street is wide enough for any traffic which may come from Basildon via Upper Mayne, and prove that a costly by-pass is not necessary. I hope also that the Council will take action about parking, and one-way traffic in Chapel Street, and take further action regarding buses reversing by the Church.

Last Saturday week the electors of Billericay elected a Residents' Association Councillor for the first time since 1949. This result indicates that possibly party politics is on the way out from Basildon Council. The result is not so much a reflection on the men and women who serve under political banners on the Council, and work hard, but on the system of meetings before the Council and the "block" voting of the two major parties. The result indicates that at the present time the people of Billericay believe in making each decision on its individual merit. The next few years will be the most important in the history of Billericay and it is essential that every decision be examined on its own merits, and not on what the Central Office or Transport House thinks. It is equally important that these decisions be made in public, and I trust that in the near future Committee meetings of the Council will be open to the Press.

I hope that the Council will act on the advice of the South Green Residents and move the childrens' playground equipment back to the Recreation Ground. A fence, erected on the Southend Road side of the Recreation Ground would overcome the safety hazard, but as it is children will continue to play there, and will run out into the road at any point.

----- "Wanderer".