

BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday July 4th, 1961.

Number 90.



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"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

CARNIVAL SUCCESS — £600 PROFIT

Takings from Billericay Carnival on Saturday 24th June amounted to over £800, and the profit is estimated at £600. This will be divided equally between Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, St. Andrews' Hospital League of Friends, and non-political youth organisations.

Over 10,000 people watched the procession, which was over half-a-mile long, and over 10,000 entered the Fete at the Archer Hall Field in Laindon Road. Throughout the day the sun shone down from a cloudless sky, but a cool breeze kept temperatures down to a pleasant level.

From 1 p.m. onwards the 77 entries assembled on the Town Farm Estate for judging by a panel of judges. Then at 3 p.m. the procession moved off down Hilary Mount and Everest Rise, into Western Road, reaching the High Street at 3.30 p.m., and Sun Corner at 4 p.m. The procession was led by two members of the Essex Union Hunt in hunting pink - Mr. George Davies (huntsman) and Mr. Michael Chamberlain (first whipper-in). Next came the Fancy Dress entries, and then the Tableaux-on-Foot Class, which included a "monster" entered by the Billericay Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament, and bearing the slogans "Too much armour, too little brain, now he's extinct". The next class was the Equestrian in Costume, who were followed by the Decorated Trade Vehicles, Decorated Cycles, Decorated Non-Trade Vehicles, and then the floats. Last of all came the Carnival Queen Miss Hilary Ambrose (age 17) and her two attendants, Linda Cattell (18) and Greta Manning (17), on a red combine harvester belonging to J & F. Keeling of Crays Hill, and completely decorated with bunting and flowers. On the front "Hilary" was written in flowers.

The procession was controlled by Billericay Civil Defence, who had seven vehicles in the procession. The largest crowds were at the corner of Western Road and Everest Rise (4 deep), where the Queen's float was waiting to join in the procession, at the corner of the High Street and Western Road (6 deep), and at Sun Corner (8 deep). Along the High Street crowds were 2 to 3 deep and many more watched from the upper stories of shops and houses. A fairly large crowd gathered on the Town Farm Estate, and people were scattered along Western Road, although there were dense crowds in places.

On the Fete Field Mr. Alec Bryant (Carnival Committee Chairman) introduced Mrs. C. J. Gadson, Chairman of Basildon Council, who officially opened the Fete. The awards were presented, and afterwards the Carnival Queen and her attendants toured the sideshows.

At 4.50 p.m. the Kyu-Shin-Kan Private Judo Club of Basildon gave a demonstration of Judo and Aikido-Kendo. At 5.35 p.m. a Motor Cycle Display was given by the Royal Military Police Motor Cycle Display Team, 156 Provost Co. This was preceded by a short display by Billericay Ladies' Keep Fit Group, who styled themselves as the "Roxburgh Scottish Dance Group".

Continued On Page 2.

BILLERICAY CARNIVAL, 1961. Continued from Page 1.

At 6.0 p.m. Mr. L. Marmol of Eastwood, an ex-World glider champion, who had flown from Stapleford Abbots in a Chipmunk, gave an Air Display over the ground. Mr. Marmol also flew his aeroplane at a height of 2,436 ft. for a Height Judging Competition, which was won by Mr & Mrs. Alston of Stock Road, Billericay, who estimated 2,429 ft.

At 6.45 p.m. the Tornados played Rock 'n' Roll, and a Rock 'n' Roll competition was won by Mr & Mrs. Floyd of Perry Street.

Although most of the stalls at the Fete closed by 8 p.m. - a notable exception was the 4th Billericay Scout Group Hot Dog Stall - there was still plenty of fun for the crowds. Adjoining the Fete Ground was a commercial Fun Fair, with dodgems etc, and in the Archer Hall the Queen and her attendants presided over the Carnival Dance. Music was provided by the Melgrave Dance Band and the Tornados.

Towards 10 p.m. hundreds of people returned to the Fete Ground for the £100 Grand Firework Display, which provided a Grand Finale to a highly successful Carnival.

PRIZE WINNERS ETC.

Many properties on the Carnival route were gaily decorated and for the first time the Carnival Committee ran a competition for the best dressed shop window in the spirit of Carnival. This competition was judged on Friday night by Mr & Mrs A.C. Hall of Hornchurch. The winners (who receive a plaque) were Houghtons, Grocers, of High Street, Billericay and the runners-up were Martins, Newsagents, of Western Road. The cup for the best float entered by a local organisation was won by W.W. Ball & Sons Sports & Social Club for their "Queen Elizabeth at Ingatestone Hall" scene.

Procession Winners.

Class 1, Fancy Costume Lady or Gent, 1st. J. Layland, 2nd. Mrs. Clark, 3rd. Mrs. A.C. Coutts.

Class 2, Fancy Costume, Boy/Girl 7/11 years, 1st. Caroline Ashton, 2nd. Christopher Lovell, 3rd. Simon Byers.

Class 3, Fancy Costume, Boy/Girl, 11-15 years, 1st. Beverley Ambrose, 2nd. Moira Murphy, 3rd. Eileen North.

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN.

CARNIVAL AWARD WINNERS - Continued.

Class 4, Tableaux-on-Foot, 1. Billericay Nuclear Disarmament Group, 2. Billericay Tennis Club.
Class 5, Decorated Cycles, 1. Marilyn Harvey, 2. Michael Harvey.
Class 6, Equestrian in Costume, 1. S.E. Richardson, 2. S. Kersey and A. Swaffer, 3. G. Simpson.
Class 8, Vintage Cars, 1. John Smith.
Class 9, Decorated Trade Vehicles (motorised) 1. North Thames Gas Board, 2. Laindon Building Supplies, 3. Trueman, Hamburg, & Buxton Ltd.
Class 10, Decorated Non-Trade Vehicle, 1. Morris School of Motoring, 2. Royal Observer Corps, 3. John Perkins School of Motoring.
Class 12, Floats, 1. W.W. Ball & Son Sports & Social Club, 2. Sunnymede Young Wives, 3. Billericay Secondary School.
Class 13, Decorated Farm Vehicle, 1. J. & F. Keeling.
There were no entries in Class 7 (Decorated Trade Vehicles, Horse Drawn), or in Class 11 (Decorated Motor Cycle/Motor Scooter).

Bands taking part in the Carnival were the Essex Pipe Band and the Billericay Girls' Life Brigade Band.

Judges for the procession were:-
Mr & Mrs. H. Warner of Ilford,
Mr & Mrs. Drysdale of Braintree,
Mr & Mrs. Flight of Chelmsford,
Mr & Mrs. Matthieson of Southend.

Last years' proceeds were £465 - £135 less than this year.

There were 27 stalls and sideshows at the Carnival Fete. The following organisations took part; Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee (catering), Billericay Amateur Operatic Society, Civil Defence (rescue drill from 25 ft. high tower) Conservative Association, Mr. Bond, Labour Party, Town Football Club, Air Training Corps, Goodmayes Round Table, Royal Observer Corps, Royal Military Police, Billericay Ladies' Keep Fit Group, Billericay District Girl Guides, Toc H, 4th Billericay Scout Group, Buttsbury Residents' Association, Billericay Residents' Association, and St. Andrews' Hospital League of Friends. Billericay Round Table manned the gates.

To see how the "Observer" got on in the Carnival turn to Page 4.

MEMBERSHIP OF RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION EXCEEDS 1,000.

Members of Billericay Residents' Association were informed by their Secretary, Mr.G.Birch, at their A.G.M. at the W.I.Hall last Wednesday week, that membership of the Association was now 1,050 - an increase of 800 in the past year. Mr.Birch praised the "magnificent efforts" of the Membership Sub-Committee and the South Green Sub-Committee. Probably one of the most important things done during the year was the starting of "The Mayflower", which was produced regularly, and kept members informed of the activities of the Association.

The Chairman, Mr.Cox, said that if the Association was to be a potent force in local affairs, it had to have a large membership, as well as enthusiastic members. The Association were "most anxious" to increase membership. Mr.Cox said that it was intended to delegate responsibilities to each locality in order for the Executive Committee to keep in touch with local feeling, to organise social events, and to encourage good neighbourliness. Mr. Cox referred to the formation of the South Green Sub-Committee during the year, and said that he looked forward with confidence to the time when there were sub-committees in all localities. He also looked forward to the time when the Association would have a membership of 3,000, and a systematic canvass was being conducted to this end. When this stage was reached the Executive Committee would consist of delegates from the various sub-committees.

Mr.Cox referred to the fact that a local Estate Agent, was Chairman of the Basildon Urban District Council Development & Planning Committee. He criticised this, not doubting the integrity of the man, but as a matter of principle. Mr.Cox referred to a book on local government - "The Councillor" - which stated that no Estate Agent practising in the area served by a Council should not even be a member of any Planning Committee.

Referring to the election of Mr.H.E.Wilkins (Independent Resident) to the Council Mr.Cox stated that he felt that Councillors should be absolutely non-political, and act in the residents' interests. Although good relations would be maintained between Cllr.Wilkins and the Residents Associations, the Associations would have no control over Cllr.Wilkins.

CONTINUED IN COLUMN 2.

"BALANCE MUST BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES" - R.A. CHAIRMAN -- Continued from Column 1.

Mr.Cox felt sure that Cllr. Wilkins would always consider the interests of the local residents, but he would always vote on each issue on its merits, even if it conflicted with the views of the majority of local residents. Mr.Cox said that the Association would welcome Independent Councillors in other areas of the district, even if their views did not agree with those of the Residents'. He was sure that the people of the Basildon New Town would welcome a good alternative to party quarrels.

Mr.Cox reminded members that the district was expanding rapidly, and that facilities for newcomers should be planned in advance. He referred to the overcrowded Public Transport services, to the inadequate Water and Electricity supplies, and the lack of recreational facilities. A proper balance should be maintained between development and facilities. Referring to the Council's decision not to acquire Great Cowbridge Grange Mr.Cox said that a chance was missed only last week to acquire land in order to preserve it. In conclusion he said that he was sure that the Association would continue to be a vital force in local affairs.

Presenting the Treasurer's Report, Mr.G.Birch said that there was a balance in hand of 10/-, compared with £20 at the last A.G.M. This was mainly due to the expenditure on "The Mayflower". Mr.Birch stressed that no part of members' subscriptions were used for election purposes.

It was agreed that no member, who was an active member of a party political organisation, should be allowed to serve on the Executive Committee. It was also decided to ratify the Committee's decision to create a husband-and-wife subscription of 3/6d.

A member drew attention to the fact that a fence had been placed across the entrance to Norsey Woods, and the public could no longer use it. It was decided to get in touch with the owner. Another member referred to flooding caused by blocked drains at Outwood Common, and it was agreed to contact the Council on this matter.

Officers elected were Mr.Cox (Chairman), Mr.Birch (Secretary) and Mr.Hopkins (Treasurer).

EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Although the "Billericay Observer" float in Billericay Carnival did not win a prize it was highly successful. On the float (decorated with flowers and bunting) were a Town Crier, "Queen Of The Press", and the Editor, who was typing reports as the float went along. Along the side were four newsboys. Thanks are due to:-

H. Keene & Co., Landscape Gardeners of Billericay for loan of lorry.

Lynn Dodd (Queen Of The Press).

Mrs. E. Grant (Town Crier)

Brian Harrison of Galleywood, Richard Thomas of Galleywood, David Nourish of Chelmsford, Paul Hagger of Billericay (newsboys).

Cater Museum (loan of genuine Town Crier's bell).

The "Billericay Observer" competition to be run in the August School Holidays will be a sketching or painting competition. Further details will be given in the next issue.

----- The Editor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Thursday July 6th:- Meeting to discuss building of new Church in Perry Street at Christ Church Mission Hall, at 8 p.m.

Saturday July 15th:- Grand Fete, Catholic Church of the Holy Redeemer, Laindon Road, 2.45 p.m.

Saturday July 15th:- Summer Show of Billericay Horticultural Society, Archer Hall.

Tuesday July 18th:- Basildon Urban District Council Finance Committee, Council Chamber, High Street, Billericay, at 6.50 p.m.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

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GRAND FETE

to be held at

The Church of the Holy Redeemer in
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JULY 15th, 1961 starting at 2.45 p.m.

Grand Prizes ---- Stalls
Childrens' Fancy Dress
Refreshments

.....

FOR THE OLD FOLK

Billericay O.A.P. - 21st June Meeting.

There was a very good attendance. As to sick members it appeared that Mr. Pegg was improving, Mrs. Gray was about the same, Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Rowe, and Mrs. Marshall were all improving, also Mr. Ramage was slowly improving. All sick members were wished a speedy recovery to good health. A minute's silence was observed on the passing of Mr. Hall, an old member. The Secretary asked all who wished to go on the Brighton Outing on July 17th to put their names down as soon as possible. Entertainment was provided by Mrs. Barr's party, who were accorded a vote of thanks.

Billericay O.A.P. - 28th June Meeting.

There was an excellent attendance. On sick members Mr. Ramage and Mr. Pegg were improving, Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Gray were about the same. Mrs. Parkin and Mrs. Wormald were welcomed back after absence through illness. Birthday honours were accorded Mrs. Newell and Mrs. Shaw. The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Barr thanking all members who had helped with the catering on Carnival Day. The Branch's Concert Party entertained. Among those taking part were Mrs. Plumridge and Mrs. M. Horne with songs, Mr. Joseph and Mr. Plumridge with songs, Mr. Wiltshire with songs and mandoline solos, also mandoline and banjo duets by Mrs. Dawkins and Mr. Wiltshire with Mr. Dawkins (Cornet). Leader was Mr. Dawkins, with Mrs. Dawkins Pianist.

Buttsbury Monday Club.

On the 19th a Raffle was held and members entertained themselves, 28 being present. On June 26th 22 members attended a Raffle and Whist Drive. On Wednesday June 28th 33 members and friends went on a Coach Outing to Tiptree via Baddow, Witham, and Kelvedon, visiting the strawberry fields at Tiptree, and returning via Hanningfield Reservoir.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO BOOK YOUR SUMMER CRUISE OR HOLIDAY ABROAD

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CHRIST CHURCH, PERRY STREET.

Services:- Sunday June 9th, Family
Matins, 9.30 a.m. Sunday June
16th, Holy Communion, 9.30 a.m.

Young Wives Fellowship:- July 18th,
8 to 9 p.m.

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

Monday July 3rd (3 Days):- Elvis
Presley, Barbara Eden in "FLAMING
STAR" (A). Also "THE THIRD VOICE"
(A).

Thursday July 6th (3 Days):-
Gianna Canale, Ettore Manni in "THE
WARRIOR AND THE SLAVE GIRL" (U).
Also "ALL ASHORE" (U).

BINGO COMES TO BILLERICAY.

Bingo will be played at the
Ritz Cinema in Chapel Street on
Wednesday Afternoons from some time
later in July or early August.
To be allowed to play, prospective
players have to join the Bingo Club,
membership forms for which can be
obtained from the Ritz. The Ritz
is owned by local councillor Mr. A.P.
Phelps, who already holds Bingo
sessions at his other cinema - the
Radion at Laindon.

GRASS FIRES KEEP FIRE BRIGADE BUSY.

Billericay Fire Brigade have
been kept busy dealing with grass
fires during the past fortnight.
In all they have attended 8 grass
fires - 1 at Shenfield, 1 at Laindon,
1 at Brentwood, 2 at Ramsden Heath,
and 3 in Billericay - London Road on
the 23rd of June, Outwood Common
Road on the 27th, and the Railway
Embankment on the 29th. In
addition on the 28th they stood by at
Corringham Fire Station for a fire at
Hedley's Soap Factory, Corringham.

"OBSERVER" SMALL ADS - For Sale,
Wanted, Personal, Lost & Found - 6d
PAY! PAY! PAY! Phone 1927.

RESIDENTS' SUMMER BAZAAR TO HELP ELECTION FIGHTING FUND.

The Joint Summer Bazaar, held by
Billericay Residents' Association and
Buttsbury Residents' Association at
the W.I. Hall on Saturday was opened by
Cllr. H.E. Wilkins, "the only Independent
Councillor in the Urban District".
Proceeds go towards the Election
Fighting Fund.

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER HOME SAFETY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL.

At last Wednesday's Council
Finance Committee meeting it was
decided to refer a suggestion that the
Council form a Home Safety Committee
to the Health Committee.

The Council were informed that
more lives were lost in the home, than
on the roads.

For the Conservatives Cllr. Mrs.
C.J. Gadson said that whilst she agreed
with the idea in principle she felt
that it should be considered by the
Health Committee and not the Finance
Committee, as there were co-opted
members on the Health Committee, who
might have different views.

Commented Cllr. Dove (Lab.); "By
considering it here we would save
time and we might save lives".

CIVIL DEFENCE STRENGTH 406.

In the Clerk's report on Civil
Defence at the Finance Committee
meeting members were informed that
the Civil Defence strength in the Urban
District was 406, compared with 373
last year. The number required was
1,268. The deficiency was especially
marked in the Warden Section, but
Headquarters Section was almost up
to strength.

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1 PINT SPAR MALT VINEGAR -----	SAVE 3d	REDUCED FROM 1/6d to 1/3d.
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VIOTA AFTERNOON TEACAKE MIX -----	SAVE 3d	REDUCED FROM 1/3d to 1/-.
BLUE-CAP CHEESE -----	SAVE 2d	REDUCED FROM 1/- to 10d.
JAPANESE MANDARIN ORANGES -----	SAVE 3d	REDUCED FROM 1/6d to 1/3d.
QUAKER PUFFED WHEAT -----	SAVE 3d	REDUCED FROM 1/4d to 1/1d.
H & P CORNISH WAFERS -----	SAVE 2 1/2d	REDUCED FROM 1/2 1/2d to 1/-.
LARGE O.K. SAUCE -----	SAVE 3d	REDUCED FROM 1/6d to 1/3d.
TULIP LUNCHEON MEAT -----	SAVE 6d	REDUCED FROM 2/6d to 2/-.
MITCHAM MAID JELLIES -----	SAVE 1 1/2d	REDUCED FROM 7 1/2d to 6d.

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UNOX LUNCHEON MEAT -----	SAVE 4d	REDUCED FROM 2/8d to 2/4d.
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FOODS --- GREENGROCERY --- CHEMISTS SUNDRIES etc.

NO DOG PATROL FOR LOCAL PARKS.

At their Finance Committee meeting last Wednesday Basildon Council decided to take no action on a request from the Parks Committee that a supplementary estimate of £285 for a Dog Patrol in local parks be approved.

For the Conservatives Cllr.C.V. Rolph said; "I doubt whether one man and one dog could effectively patrol ten parks. The hooligans would make it their business to know where the man and the dog were going. This patrol would act as a challenge to them to do more damage".

Explaining the system that would operate Cllr.Rolph said that the man and the dog would make three patrols of each park a week after 8 p.m. and throughout the night at frequent but irregular intervals. He would keep in touch by wireless in his car.

Cllr.Rolph said that the Council were experiencing great difficulty with vandalism in their parks and recreation grounds. However, should the dog attack a child or an adult the Council would be sued for very heavy damages.

Cllr.Morgan (Lab.) said that he was worried in case the dog got off the lead or the handler got "cocky".

Cllr.Mrs.C.J.Gadson (Chairman) said that a man going round occasionally wouldn't stop vandalism.

Cllr.Dove (Lab.) said that the Council had done nothing to combat vandalism. He went on; "This is a deterrent, but I think it's the money question that is deterring your side. £400 to £500 damage is done by vandalism every year, and this patrol would only cost £285".

Mr.Baker, Deputy Engineer & Surveyor said that the dog and handler would have two objects - to catch hooligans, and deter them. £10 of the money would be spent on warning notice boards.

Cllr.Weston (Con.) said that the Council should consider the physiological effects of the patrol.

Cllr.Pope (Con.) said; "We are not only fighting vandalism. People are not supposed to be in the parks after they have closed. We must get our perspectives right. Anyone in there after the park has closed fully deserves to lose the seat of his trousers".

No action was carried by 12 votes to 7.

RESIDENTS COMPLAIN OF "VILE SMELL".

It was stated at last Monday week's meeting of Buttsbury Residents' Association that many complaints had been received from members living in the Mountnessing Road area complaining about the "vile smell" from the sewage works behind Mountnessing Road. Several members had written individually to the Council and a reply to one member's letter was read out. It was decided to keep a detailed record of complaints to present to the Council, who had stated that they had not received any complaints before.

A letter from the Engineer & Surveyor regarding Billericay Industrial Estate was also read out. The Engineer & Surveyor stated that so far planning permission had been granted for 26 factories. On the question of noise he stated that one existing factory using woodworking machinery had agreed to limit working until 6.30 p.m. with no Saturday working and to carry out any urgent work at the firm's other factory. They would move to new premises as soon as possible. Regarding a new factory in course of erection details of all machinery to be used had to be approved by the Council, in order to ensure that there was no excessive noise.

On the question of the link road the Engineer & Surveyor stated that it was not known when this would be completed as the undeveloped land at the Gooseberry Green end of the Industrial Estate was owned by another firm of developers. He could not agree that the lighting along Station Footpath constituted a danger.

After some discussion on the letter it was decided to write again to the Council on the final number of factories (40 had been mentioned before) and the lack of proper lighting along Station Footpath.

It was explained to members that the Association were introducing a scheme whereby each road or small area would have a local representative, who would look after recruiting, hand out literature, and keep members informed. Several members volunteered to be road representatives.

It was decided to alter the constitution to create the post of President and Minutes Secretary and Assistant Secretary. Cllr.Wilkins was elected President, Mrs.Calcroft Minutes Secretary, and Mr.Priestley Assistant Secretary.

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CHATEAU HAUT BOUSCAT 8/6

"BILLERICAY IN THE PAST".

by the Editor. Series 2. No.7.

Great Burstead Church.

The first Church at Great Burstead was probably erected in the 7th century by Sebert, King of the Saxons, and was probably a wooden structure. The site was originally a fort as indicated in the old name - "Burghstede".

After the death of Sebert his sons went back to the old religion, but at last King Siegebeht was baptised by the Roman missionary, St.Cedd. A well nearby the present Church is called Cedd's Well and probably a cross was erected here until a Church was built.

The Church and its lands then came into the hands of Ingar the Thane, but following the Norman Conquest King William gave the Church to his half-brother Bishop Odo. His main manor in this area was Grange Farm at Great Burstead. Some of the earliest work in Great Burstead Church may be traced to this period, and it is probable that on his occasional visits to the Grange, when travelling from his castle at Rochester to his northern lands, that he supervised the craftsmen at their work.

All that remains of the work of the Normans at Great Burstead today is the Norman window in the north wall, and possibly the Nave. However, a chest dug out of solid oak, and dating from the 12th/13th century survives.

Following the disgrace of Bishop Odo, the Cistercian monks of Stratford Langthorne were given possession. Most of the work at Great Burstead Church seems to have been done during the three centuries when the monks were at the manor - they seem to have been building, altering, and improving almost continuously. They built the Chancel, and added the tower of Kentish rag stone in the 14th Century - the shingled spire was added in the 16th century.

The north and south porches and Lady Chapel were added in the 16th century. In the Lady Chapel are the tombs of the Tyrell Family and a memorial window to Major Spitty of "Hurlocks" and his wife. In more recent times the crew of the German airship L-32, which crashed in Jacksons Lane, were buried in the churchyard. Two years ago £7,500 was raised to fight the ravages of the Death Watch Beetle of this fine and interesting Church, set in attractive countryside, two miles from Billericay High Street.

ROUND AND ABOUT

by
"WANDERER".

Credit is due to the officials of Billericay Carnival for their organisation of Billericay Carnival, which resulted in £600 being raised for charity. Credit is also due to the many local organisations and individuals who helped in one way or another to make the Carnival such a success. I have one or two suggestions for the improvement of future Carnivals:-

- a) More bands should be invited.
- b) Other Carnival Queens should be invited to ride in the Carnival procession.
- c) Billericay Carnival Queen should reign for the whole year, and visit local hospitals and old folk at Christmas, and should ride in at least Chelmsford, Basildon, and Southend Carnivals.

Apart from these minor suggestions for improvement the Carnival was definitely the best ever.

Billericay Residents' Association certainly are a "vital force" in local affairs, with a membership of over 1,000. Their efforts to encourage "good neighbourliness" and hold social events are indeed most praiseworthy. It is important that Residents' Associations should be strong and vital, in order to keep the Council "on their toes", and keep public bodies of all kinds informed on residents' views on such varying subjects as Education and Transport, Sewage and Lighting, Planning and Private Street Works etc. In addition large organisations can put far more force to the views of the ordinary ratepayer, particularly when they have representation on the local Council, as in Billericay.

Vandalism in the Urban District causes about £500 worth of damage to Council property, your property. The question is, how can this be prevented. I don't think the answer is in a Dog Patrol. For one thing there is always the danger that the dog will maul someone, and 3-times a week coverage is not worth the cost. The answer is in harsher penalties, reporting of offences by the public, and occasional Police "raids". ---- "Wanderer".

Billericay Floral Arrangement Group.

The next meeting will be held in the W.I.Hall on Wednesday July 5th at 8 p.m. when Mrs.Thorn, Secretary of the Colchester Rose Society, will talk on "Roses". Members 2/-, non-members, 2/6d. Members arrangement "June Roses" - roses for a hall table.