

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday September 12th, 1961.

Number 94.



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"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

## RESIDENTS ANSWER TORY LEAFLET

The Committees of Billericay Residents' Association and Buttsbury Residents' Association have issued a joint statement replying to the 3-page leaflet issued by Billericay Conservative Branch, criticising the conduct of the Residents in the Council Election, the principle of non-political local government, and pointing out the possible repercussions of a spread of "R.A.ism" at General Election level.

The Residents statement reads; "The Billericay and Buttsbury Residents Associations Committees have read the pamphlet being circulated by the Chairman of Billericay Conservative Branch, more in sorrow than in anger, and a full reply is being published in the official Bulletins of the two Associations.

Mr. Thomas confesses to worried thoughts over the result of the last local election, at which Councillor Wilkins (R.A.) was successful. His worries are concerned entirely with the possible effect on the Conservative party machine. We also have our worries, but these are concerned with Billericay and its future. It would appear from the results obtained on May 13th that people share our concern.

In his election address Mr. Wilkins states that he will judge all matters "on their merits", and this causes Mr. Thomas to wonder what they have been judged on in the past. The answer is party political bias. We could quote many cases where items with no apparent political connections, have resulted in the parties opposing each other for no apparent reason.

He talks down to residents as if they were wayward sheep, to be herded back to the fold, and infers that people with Conservative inclinations who failed to vote for the official Conservative candidate acted irresponsibly and allowed the rebel in them to overcome their "duty" to the Party. We are quite sure that they will not allow themselves to be stampeded into accepting the assertion that their actions in a local election could cause a national disaster for one or the other of the political parties in a General Election. They obviously have more sense. Mr. Thomas sheds crocodile tears because he thinks that the Associations have done themselves irreparable harm in supporting an Independent candidate, but surely, if we are to die of self inflicted wounds, he has no worries for the future.

We appeal to all who have received a copy of his pamphlet to read it not once, but twice, to appreciate fully how quite ridiculous it is. If Mr. Thomas has not yet completed distribution of his circular we would be only too pleased to assist".

Also see -- Letters on Page 8.

-----  
STOP PRESS NEWS.



## WEATHER AFFECTS ENTRIES AT HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

Entries at Billericay Horticultural Society's Autumn Show at the Archer Hall on Saturday were 314 - 80 down on last year's figure. The Show Secretary, Mr.D.Withrington attributed this to the bad season - a long dry spell, followed by heavy rains.

Commenting on the Flower, Fruit and Vegetable section the Judges said; "Due to the season a somewhat small show but the entries were up to the usual bright, well-grown standard. This was especially so in the Chrysanthemum and Dahlia classes. There were many bright entries in the classes for floral art. These appear to get better each year, and go far to help to decorate the hall".

The Cookery Judge, Mrs.C.A.Wilby commented; "The number of entries in the Cookery Section has increased giving a satisfactory number in each class. The entries were attractively set out and made a good impression. It was disappointing to see so many fruit cakes sunk in the middle - possibly the proportion of Plain Flour stated in the recipe was not used. The pastry for the jam tarts could have been rolled thinner to achieve a slightly better finish".

Special Awards:- Banksian Medal, highest total of prize money in Summer and Autumn Shows, A.C.Peagram; Charlotte Gunter Cup, highest aggregate of points obtained by a member in the Summer and Autumn shows, A.C.Peagram; Runner-up, G.R.Versey; Julia Wood Challenge Cup, highest number of points in perennial flowers classes, tie between A.A.Peart and L.A.Dove; Autumn Cup, highest number of points in fruit and vegetable section, J.Attridge; Runner-up to Banksian Medal, G.R.Versey; "Woman's Own" medal, best cookery exhibit in Autumn Show, Miss E.A.Fox; "Woman's Own" diploma, best fruit cake in Autumn Show, Mrs.Humpage; Silver Medal, best exhibit in Chrysanthemum Section, H.S.Ward; Bronze Medal, highest aggregate of points in Chrysanthemum Section, H.S.Ward; Silver Medal, best exhibit in Dahlia Section, G.R.Versey; Bronze Medal, highest number of points in Dahlia Section, G.R.Versey; "Smallholder" Blue Ribbon, best exhibit in Autumn Show, A.C.Peagram; Runner-up M.Squires; most outstanding exhibit in Fruit Section, Autumn Show, "Amateur Gardening" Certificate of Merit, Miss I.A.Gayes.

## 5,000 HAVE VISITED MUSEUM.

The 5,000th person to visit Billericay's Cater Museum signed himself in the Visitor's Book as "Tom Thumb of Fairyland". "If he had not been too frightened to sign his real name", commented the Curator, Mr.H.Richman, "he would have won a prize".

As it was the name had to be erased and the prize for the 5,000th visitor to sign the Visitor's Book was won by 10-years old Dawn Plant of Knightbridge Walk, Billericay. She was also given the honour of signing her name in the book reserved for special visitors.

Although only 5,000 people have signed the Visitor's Book, the Curator, estimates that 10,000 people have visited the Museum, as only about 50% sign the Visitor's Book. The Museum was opened in May, 1960, but was closed for about three months because of repairs and alterations, and about one month because of pilfering.

Latest additions to the Museum's growing collection include a clock given by the Recreation Rooms Committee, made by G.Ramsey of Billericay in 1887, and a fine Roman urn, containing burnt human bones, of the 2nd Century A.D., found at Colchester in 1793, on permanent loan from the Cumings Museum, Southwark.

## RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION TO FORM SUB-COMMITTEE AT SUNNYMEDE.

Billericay Residents' Association are to hold a meeting in Sunnymede shortly to form a Sub-Committee to deal with matters affecting the Sunnymede and Outwood Common area. A similar Sub-Committee has already been in existence for several months at South Green.

## BASEBALL GAME ATTRACTS LARGE CROWD.

Between 600 and 700 people watched a Baseball demonstration and game at Willowbrook Sports Ground, Stock Road, last Sunday week, organised by St.John's Sports Association. First of all a team from the United States Air Force at Wethersfield staged a demonstration game. Then the U.S.A.F. team played a St.John's team and beat them by 9 runs to 2. After the match the members of the American team autographed the ball used, and presented it, together with several other balls, to the St.John's Sports Association team.



## RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT GREEN BELT.

Several members of Billericay Residents' Association expressed concern when they were informed at their recent meeting by Cllr. Wilkins that a Brentwood builder had bought Great Cowbridge Grange, and put it up for re-sale, less 15 acres at the back of Mountnessing Road and London Road. Great Cowbridge Grange is part of the official Metropolitan Green Belt between Billericay and Hutton, and when it was up for sale recently Cllr. Wilkins campaigned for its purchase as an open space.

Members of the Committee were particularly concerned at the lack of open space in Billericay and it was suggested that the land would have made ideal playing fields.

It was decided to forward a resolution about open space to the conference of the Essex Federation of Ratepayers' and Residents' Associations to be held at Grays shortly. The resolution reads; "Having regard to the rapid development of suburban Essex, this Federation calls on all Residents' and Ratepayers' Associations to be vigilant regarding the provision of amenities and the preservation of Green Belt land, and urges greater co-ordination between planning authorities and public utilities".

## RESIDENTS ANNOYED ABOUT LACK OF PUBLICITY OF FLATS SCHEME.

At the recent meeting of Billericay Residents' Association several members expressed their concern at the fact that no publicity had been given by the Council to the scheme for a five-storey block of flats, two blocks of single-storey flats, and a block of terraced houses, on the sandpits opposite the station, as revealed in the last "Observer".

Members agreed that they assumed that the Council's policy was to give publicity to all planning applications of an "out of the ordinary" nature. Yet no publicity had been given to the flats scheme. If a five-storey block of flats was "run of the mill" they wondered what the Council would consider "out of the ordinary".

Members considered that ample publicity should have been given to the proposal, so that any interested persons, could have asked for an inquiry into the scheme.

.....  
FOR SALE - Boy's cycle in reasonable condition (needs slight adjustment). Suit boy 8 years and upwards. £2 or near offer. 7, Upland Close, Perry Street, after 7 p.m., or weekends.

## OPEN FORUM OF COUNCILLORS TO VISIT BILLERICAY IN MARCH.

A proposal down on Basildon Council Finance Committee's agenda for tomorrow (Wednesday) provides for an Open Forum of Councillors to tour the Urban District, and answer questions from the general public. The proposal arose from a debate on Public Relations at the last Council Meeting, when the Conservatives submitted it as an alternative to a 15-minute Public Question Time at each Council Meeting suggested by Labour.

The provisional date for the Forum's visit to Billericay is Wednesday 20th March at Billericay Secondary School. The Forum will also visit Basildon in November, Pitsea/Laindon in December, and Wickford in February.

It is intended that the meetings shall start at 8.0 p.m. and finish at 9.45 p.m.

All members of the Council will be invited to attend each meeting. The business to be discussed will be limited to general and local matters relating to the area in which the meeting is being held, and it is intended to keep the meetings as informal as possible.

The Chairman of the Council will be in the Chair, and the meeting will be opened with a general statement by the Chairman of the Council as to the Council's programme and proposed programme of work for that particular area.

Questions or items for discussion must be submitted to the Clerk 7 days before the meeting, so that the Chairman of the appropriate Committee can prepare a reply. Discussion will be allowed on questions submitted.

20 minutes before the end of each meeting will be reserved for open discussion. No person will be allowed to ask more than one question until other persons have had an opportunity of speaking or putting questions.

The meetings will be given ample publicity by poster and in the Press.

It is expected that the Committee will accept the proposals.

## FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP.

On September 6th the Billericay Floral Arrangement Group enjoyed Mr. Geoffrey Warren's demonstrations of all round table arrangements. The members' competition entitled "Autumn Flowers" was won by Mrs. Hardy, 2nd. Mrs. Turner, 3rd. Mrs. Whellams, Highly Commended, Mrs. Hartley.



### EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

No more entries can now be accepted for the "Billericay Observer" Sketching Competition. Judging will take place shortly, and the results will be announced in the near future in the "Billericay Observer".

Circulation of the "Billericay Observer" is now around 600 copies per issue.

----- The Editor.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Wednesday September 13th:- Basildon U.D. Council Finance Committee Meeting, Council Chamber, High Street, Billericay, 6.50 p.m.

Saturday September 16th:- Christ Church Development Committee, Fete in aid of new Church, Mill Hill House, Perry Street, 2.30 p.m. Floodlit dancing in the evening.

Saturday September 23rd:- British Legion Old Tyme Dance in Archer Hall. Proceeds to Billericay Old People's Welfare Committee.

Thursday 12th October:- Basildon U.D. Council Meeting, Billericay.

"Elizabethan Essex" exhibition, arranged by Essex Records Office, at Ingatestone Hall, open from Tuesday to Saturday, until October 7th. Ingatestone Hall is near Ingatestone Railway Station and is about half-a-mile from the Shenfield-Chelmsford bus route (30, 30a).

### BILLERICAY CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.

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September 19th, 8 p.m.

.....  
ADVERTISEMENT RATES from the Editor.

Page 4.



# FOR THE OLD FOLK

## Billericay O.A.P. - 30th August Meeting.

There was a very good attendance. In the absence of the Chairman (Mr. Joseph) through illness, Mr. T. Hopkins presided. With regard to sick members it appeared that Mr. Ramage was improving - he was out of hospital and was now convalescent; Mr. Pegg was improving; Mr & Mrs. Sadler were still very ill. Members entertained themselves. Those taking part were Mesdames Plumridge, Horne, August, and Purnell with songs; Messrs. Riches, Lewis, Wiltshire, and Speller with songs; Mr. Plumridge with Monologues. The compere was Mr. Riches, and the Pianist Mrs. Dawkins.

## Billericay O.A.P. - 6th September Meeting.

Mr. Joseph was in the Chair. With regard to sick members it appeared that Mr. Pegg was improving; Mr & Mrs. Sadler were a little better; Mr. Ramage was away convalescing; Mr. Walker had been transferred to Oldchurch Hospital, Romford; Mrs. Hodges had Shingles. Mrs. Parkin and Mr. W. G. Hill were welcomed back after absence through illness. Entertainment was provided by The Fairfield Concert Party.

## Buttsbury Momday Club - Annual Meeting.

The A.G.M. of the Buttsbury Monday Club was held on September 4th in Christ Church, presided over by Mrs. B. Barr. The Chairman gave a good report of the club's activities since formation, and thanked Mrs. Barr for her whole hearted assistance.

Owing to the resignation of the Treasurer the Chairman gave the Treasurer's Report, which showed a very healthy state of affairs. The Secretary's report also showed a "year" of activities which had been enjoyed by all, and he hoped would continue. He also hoped that more members would be gained.

Mrs. Barr gave a short talk and expressed her gratification at the state of the club, and hoped that it would continue to be a truly "happy family" affair. She was thanked by the Chairman and presented with a bouquet.

Officers elected:- Mr. P. Williams (Chairman), Mr. W. Bond (Secretary) and Mrs. Spaul (Treasurer). Committee:- Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Hardwicke, and Mr. Leswell.

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"SPORTS OBSERVER".

Basildon League (Div.1).

Pitsea B.L. 2 Norsey Rangers 0.

British Legion kicked off. Norsey were awarded a free kick just outside the penalty area and Porter rattled the Legion post. Norsey followed this with three shots at goal, in as many minutes, the Legion goalkeeper doing well to stop them. The Legion played some attractive football and Norsey did well to hold them. The Legion were rewarded in the 40th minute when Stevens scored from a well-taken pass from the left-wing.

After half-time both sides played good football, and Norsey went near the Legion goal with spirited efforts. Then the Legion Inside Left took advantage of a defensive slip, and McGuire in the Norsey goal had no chance. Some good mid-field play followed, which was very attractive to watch. The result was a good reflection of the game. British Legion are a side to be watched, and Norsey Rangers have improved greatly, and will be giving a good account of themselves.

In the 2nd Division of the Basildon League Norsey Rangers drew 3-3 with Pitsea British Legion Reserves at Lake Meadows.

The Minors team played a friendly match away to Basildon Community Association, which they lost 1-6.

Billericay Town Sports Club:-

1st XI - Saturday September 2nd - Witham, at home, won 4-1 in Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, 1st Division.

"SPORTS OBSERVER".

Continued.

Billericay Town Sports Club:-

1st XI, Saturday September 9th, lost away to Barnston 2-3 in the Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, 3rd division.

2nd XI, Saturday September 2nd, lost 2-4 away in a friendly with Wickford.

2nd XI, Saturday September 9th, beat Witham at home 4-1 in the Chelmsford & Mid-Essex League, 3rd division.

THE "OBSERVER" CINEMA GUIDE.

Ritz Cinema, Chapel St., Billericay.

Monday September 11th:- (3 Days)  
Elizabeth Taylor, Laurence Harvey in "BUTTERFIELD 8" (X). Supporting Marla Landi in "FIRST MAN IN SPACE" (X).

Thursday September 14th:- Yul Brynner, Eli Wallach in "THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN" (U). Full Supporting Programme. (3 Days).

Monday September 18th:- Steve Cochran, Lita Milan in "THE MOBSTER" (X). Also Christopher Lee, "CITY OF THE DEAD" (X). (3 Days).

Thursday September 21st:- Donald Crisp, Laurence Naismith in Walt Disney's "GREYFRIARS BOBBY" (U). Also Brian Keith, "TEN WHO DARED" (U). (3 Days).

Monday September 25th:- "SIEGE OF SIDNEY STREET" (A). (3 Days).

Sundays:-

September 10th, Clint Walker in "FORT DOBBS" (U). Also "THE COME ON" (A).  
September 17th, Hardy Kruger in "LIANE JUNGLE GODDESS" (U). Also "DEADLY RECORD" (A).

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir, ---- I am in full agreement with "Wanderer's" description of the Conservative pamphlet as being a 'rubbishy attack'. Having read it, it leaves me with the marked impression that the authors do not credit the local electorate with a very high intelligence.

This lengthy screed has the underlying flavour of a rehash of past election addresses, in its attempt to persuade the reader that political interference in local affairs is justified and necessary. Although it speaks condescendingly of the good work of the Residents' Association, it refers to it as though it were its own special pet 'watch dog', trained to bark only to order, but which had now broken loose, attacked its owner and is running amok on his private preserves. It conveniently ignores the fact that a Residents Assn. is independent of anyone, political or otherwise, and that its aim is (or should be) the ousting of all political parties from local councils, whereby the electorate would be wholly represented by men and women of independent thought and action. This in turn would see the end of the secret party meetings and parleys, that are held for taking so many important decisions affecting the community.

Cllr. Wilkins must be a lonely man at present, but not for long I hope. His bearing outside and in the Council Chamber, his unbiased and unbigoted approach to all matters will, I feel sure, convince people of all political parties of his sincerity, and that the conception of non-political local government is not quite so nebulous as this pamphlet would have us believe.

The 'dissident Tories' who may be supporters of the Residents' Association are advised to reject the old 'red herring' of the Red menace in the manner it deserves, and to take heart from the possibility that their associate 'dissident' Reds and Yellows are also being treated to the same sort of deception, probably becoming more evident when seats are contested in areas that are supposedly of a different predominant colour to that of Billericay Ward.

In conclusion I feel that the writers of this pamphlet have done more harm than good to their cause by showing that they have little to offer the electorate in the way of new ideas and implying thereby that the present conduct of local government is satisfactory and should be allowed to continue without modification. As an example, the case of the Industrial Site - "Bizzy Lizzie".

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir, ---- So Mr. T.W. Thomas is worried! Any resident who has lived in Billericay for a few years is also worried! That is why my vote was for Mr. Wilkins. It is easy to criticise a lone Councillor. Next year let us hope that more Independents are elected, before it is too late to stop the decline of Billericay.

----- "INTERESTED READER". (Name and address supplied).

Editor; There has been no unfavourable comment about the "Observer's" attack on the leaflet.

#### EXERCISE "OLD GLORY".

Members and vehicles of Billericay Civil Defence took part in the large-scale exercise "Old Glory" over the weekend. On Saturday afternoon they proceeded to Wethersfield Air Base, where they stayed the night, and on Sunday took part in exercises. Units from all over Essex were involved.

#### TWO ACCIDENTS EMPHASISE NEED FOR PAVEMENT.

During the past fortnight two accidents have occurred on the narrow part of Chapel Street near the Church. The first time a car drove into the doorway of No. 5 causing some damage. The car drove off. The second time a large van again hit the doorway of No. 5., causing slight damage, and drove off.

Residents of this part of Chapel Street are asking for a pavement to be provided at the left hand side of the street. At the moment people shopping in "Goodspeed's" and "The Woolpack", step straight into the road from the shops, as do the residents of nearby properties. The danger, the residents feel, particularly to children, has been emphasised by the recent accidents. They feel that it will grow when Chapel Street is made one-way, and is used by large double-decker buses.

#### NEW CAR PARK OPENS.

The new Car Park behind Woolworth's has now been completed and is open to the public. It has a far larger capacity than the temporary Car Park behind the Council Offices, which will remain open for the time being. Now that the new Car Park is open the Council will consider the introduction of a parking ban in the High Street.



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## "Billericay Fairs".

by The Editor.

The fair toll book for the two Billericay Fairs from 1804 to 1814 in the Essex Records Office reveal some interesting facts.

The fair held on October 7th every year had more stalls than that held on August 2nd.

In 1805, for instance at the August fair there were 12 gingerbread men, 1 cuttler (a Charles Clementsham who came all the way from Birmingham), 2 earthenware stalls (from Staffordshire) 5 fruiterers, 2 toy stalls, a show, a swing, and a fish stall. The only stallholders from Billericay were Elizabeth Elvins and Mrs. Reynolds both Fruiterers. Other stallholders came from all over Essex (Brentwood, Chelmsford, Naizing are among the places often mentioned) from London, or from further afield - the earthenware sellers from Staffs. or the cuttler from Birmingham.

At the October fair there were 39 stalls as compared with 25 in August. This Fair included 4 shows, 7 fish stalls, 9 fruiterers, 11 gingerbread men, 1 hatter, 4 milliners, 1 earthenware stall, 1 book stall, and 1 toy stall.

The August fair of 1806 had a gambler, John Blue, from London, but this time there were only three gingerbread stalls, compared with ten fruiterers. The October fair featured a Cheesemonger, one George Well of Herongate. There were twelve gingerbread stalls, and eight toy stalls, but only three fruiterers.

In August, 1807, gingerbread stalls were again the most popular - ten in all. A trinkets stall was a new addition. In October there was a clothier from London, and there were more gingerbread stalls than anything else.

August, 1808 saw two Gamblers, and in October there was somebody selling "Glafs". There were 16 gingerbread stalls. In August, 1809 there were again 16 gingerbread stalls. In October there were 24! In August 1810 there were 46 stalls, including 26 gingerbread men, 3 box carriers, a "kibbun stall", a glover, a law dealer, a house dealer, and three ribbon dealers. In October a lace stall, a picture stall, a boat, and a roundabout were new features. In August, 1811 there were 19 gingerbread stalls, and 13 in October, when there were 5 showman, including one from Manchester. In August 1812 there is the mysterious entry "Two Jews, 4d". In October, 1814, 19 gingerbread stalls were the main feature of the Billericay Fairs, which ended around 1900,

ROUND AND ABOUT

by

"WANDERER".

Circular No.21/61 of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government recommends local Councils to give advance publicity to planning applications, which affect a large area I quote as an example "high blocks of flats".

Presumably a five-storey block of flats is high, and of some interest to Billericay. Apparently the Council think that a big development scheme as is proposed for the sandpits opposite the Station is just run of the mill.

If a five-storey block of flats is "run of the mill" then I doubt whether anything will be given advance publicity, and plans are passed before there is a chance for possible objectors to do anything.

Of course, possibly it is Council policy not to give advance publicity of any planning applications. Yet a Minister of the same party colour as the predominant party in Basildon Council recommends all Councils to give advance publicity to important planning applications. And the local Council seem most eager to "toe the party line".

Obviously, there will be differing opinions on the proposal in question, and I am not to discuss its merits, but it is important that all sides should be given the opportunity of airing their points of view on this highly important project.

I shall look forward with interest to the reaction of the local Conservatives to the statement of the Residents Associations, particularly the offer to help Mr. Thomas with the distribution of his 3-page attempt to make excuses for the Conservatives losing Billericay in the Council Election. From the reaction to the "Observer's" criticism of the Tory statement in the last issue it is obvious that the electors of Billericay are taking no notice of this ridiculous leaflet, which treats them like naughty children, who have broken away from their parents in a fit of temper.

I share the Residents concern over the retention of 15 acres of Green Belt by a builder, even though there is no immediate threat to the land. He has obviously not bought it for a smallholding! The entire Green Belt must be protected from the ravages of building, and little nibbles at the edges must not be permitted.