

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday September 26th, 1961.

Number 95.



1½D

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"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

## MORE FLATS PLANNED FOR BILLERICAY - RESIDENTS PROTEST

Buttsbury Residents' Association have made an emergency protest to Basildon Council, about plans for flats in Newlands Road (off Perry Street) and on the new Bush Hall Estate (four storeys). They have also protested about the plan to develop the sandpits opposite the Station as flats and terraced houses.

The Secretary of the Association, Mr. W. J. Blair, told the "Observer"; "We are dismayed at the prospect of flats in areas of bungalow development. On the Bush Hall Estate many people bought their houses as a long-term investment, not knowing that flats might go up. We feel that advance publicity ought to be given to planning applications of this nature. In view of the seriousness of the situation we have asked the Council for an early reply".

Giving the Association's reasons for protesting against the proposals Mr. Blair said; "This is still a semi-rural area, centred on the charming old town of Billericay. Owing to lack of suitable employment locally many residents are forced to use the already overcrowded railway service to London causing Billericay to be purely a dormitory town in which city workers like to live and relax away from city surroundings which are composed in the main of very large buildings and flats.

The next point is the question of education. The schools in this area are overcrowded so why endeavour to make a very high density population so as to aggravate the matter.

The north eastern area of Billericay has no satisfactory water drainage scheme at present, so why the haste to pour the flood water off the roofs to flow at will all over the district? The water supply in Essex is a matter of grave concern and any trend towards a high density of population will aggravate the matter. The electricity supply in this area is not entirely satisfactory due no doubt to the fantastic rate of development.

Surely the time has come for a pause, a taking of stock, a catching up on local services. A period of consolidation with little new development (apart from schools, making up roads, street lighting, and community centres) would seem to be called for".

Residents of Cromwell Avenue have been told by the Council that the plans for the development with flats and terraced houses of the sandpits opposite the Station have not yet been finally approved, so there would be no point on holding a meeting on the subject yet. The Council also point out that the distance from the terraced houses to the bungalows in Cromwell Avenue, will be over 110 feet, which is the Council's minimum allowance, and that the land slopes from Cromwell Avenue towards the sandpit.



#### TEACHERS STRIKE HITS LOCAL SCHOOL.

The one-day strike called by the National Association of Schoolmasters on Wednesday affected two schools in the Billericay area. At Billericay Secondary School 7 of the 35 members of the teaching staff stayed away, and 6 of the 26 classes were sent home. At Buttsbury County Primary School one teacher stayed away, and one class was sent home.

On today's agenda of Basildon Education Committee is a motion of the Labour leader Cllr. A.T. Dove asking the Education Committee to tell the Minister of Education to stop interfering with existing salary negotiation machinery, and asking him to leave to the Committee concerned the job of dealing with matters for which they were appointed i.e. the day to day administration of schools in the area, and to prevent disruption in their organisation.

#### CARNIVAL WILL BE ANNUAL EVENT.

At a Public Meeting called by Billericay Carnival Committee at the Archer Hall last Wednesday it was decided that Billericay Carnival should be an annual event. It was also decided to hold the Carnival later next year - Saturday July 21st - in order to avoid clashing with the Hospital League of Friends Fete. Under consideration is the disbanding of the Carnival Committee of local associations, under the lead of the Round Table, and forming a Carnival Association.

It was announced that this year's Carnival made a profit of £576. At the Round Table Charity Ball on November 10th cheques for £192 will be presented to Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, St. Andrews Hospital League of Friends, and the remaining £192 to be split up between 4th Billericay Boy Scouts, A.T.C., Girls Life Brigade, 2nd Billericay Boy Scouts, Red Cross Juniors, Girl Guides, and Norsey Rangers Minors.

Officials elected:- Temporary Chairman, Mrs. B. Barr, Secretary, Mr. J.A. Dodd, Vice-Presidents Mr & Mrs. Bryant, Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. Withrington, Minutes Secretary, Mr. D. Mortlock, Treasurer, Mr. P. Chinnery, Procession Secretary, Mr. L. Garrard.

Proceeds next year will go to the Reading Rooms. The Secretary, Mr. Odell said; "It's very good news. We are in a poor financial state of affairs. The roof is leaking, and the place needs re-decorating and re-furnishing for the Old People's Rest Room. We also have plans for a kitchen, to improve facilities".

#### COUNCIL SUSPEND MORTGAGES AND HOUSE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Having regard to the financial situation, Basildon Council have found it necessary to suspend the granting of loans for house purchase for a period of three months, but will re-consider the position at the end of that time, or earlier if it appears that any change in circumstances warrants the resumption of such loans. The Council have also decided to suspend housing improvement loans similarly, except in cases where a grant is approved.

#### LEAGUE OF FRIENDS HAVE 200 MEMBERSHIP TARGET.

Mr. J.D. Harrison, Membership Secretary, reported a membership of 191 at the St. Andrew's Hospital League of Friends recent committee meeting. He asked members to make the figure 200 by the annual meeting on October 18th at the W.I. Hall.

The books purchased by the League for the nurses library were on view, and it was agreed that £20 should be allowed for the purchase of flower bulbs for the Hospital and Annexe.

#### HUNDREDS FLOCK TO CHRIST CHURCH FETE.

Hundreds of people flocked to the Garden Fete of Christ Church Development Committee in the grounds of Mill Hill House, Perry Street last Saturday week. As a result the first £75 was raised towards the Committee's aim of a new Church for Perry Street.

The Fete was opened by Mrs. Ball who said that she hoped that the Fete would be the first of many efforts towards the new Church. It would be many years of hard work before the Church was erected, but she was sure that when they saw the foundations go in they would be very proud.

During the afternoon visitors were entertained by a display by Billericay Keep Fit Class, and a Fancy Dress parade, in addition to the many stalls and sideshows, manned by members of Church organisations.

In the evening there was floodlit dancing on the lawn.

#### CONTRACTOR ASKED TO SPEED UP SCHOOL EXTENSION.

On the request of the Managers of Buttsbury School Basildon Education Committee have asked the Contractor working on the school extension to have at least one classroom ready for the beginning of Spring Term, 1962, to enable a class of new infants to be accommodated.



## "COUNCIL GUILTY OF OUTRAGEOUS CONDUCT" ACCUSE RESIDENTS.

In a 5-page Editorial in their magazine "The Mayflower" Billericay Residents' Association accuse Basildon Council of "outrageous conduct, with the two political parties maintaining a hostile, suspicious, un-co-operative attitude towards each other". The Editorial answers criticisms in a 3-page leaflet by Billericay Conservative Branch, which accuses the Residents of dishonest conduct in the Council elections, and attacks the principle of non-political local government.

The Editorial starts off by commenting; "These 'reflections' have been rather a long time in appearing, and we cannot believe that Mr. Thomas has enhanced the reputation of his Party by his unprecedented action".

Referring to the statement in the leaflet 'there is a lot of dissatisfaction in Billericay, but that does not mean to say that anyone else would have done better' the Editorial says; "A principal reason for this confessed dissatisfaction is the illogical, unco-ordinated planning of the past few years, often against the wishes and the interests of the community".

The Editorial agrees that the remarks made by the Resident loudspeaker van "Don't let the Council take away your recreation ground" could be interpreted in two different ways - "We admit our mistakes" - but maintains that the action taken by the Council in attempt to solve the problem of danger to children playing in the Recreation Ground has done no good.

The Editorial continues; "The contention by Mr. Thomas that party politics in local government are inevitable, and the entire responsibility of the Labour Party is pure nonsense. If it be true that one political party adopts questionable tactics, it is no reason to lower one's own standards of conduct to that level. Two wrongs do not make a right. The plain fact is that the Council have at times, been guilty of outrageous conduct, with the two principal parties maintaining a hostile, suspicious, and unco-operative attitude towards each other. The attempt by Mr. Thomas to give the impression that harmony reigns for much of the time is hardly borne out by the numerous petulant displays of anger and the pandemonium that ensues at many Council Meetings, to the extent that the National Press have commented on their behaviour".

Continued In Next Column.

## RESIDENTS DO NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN DEGRADING POLITICAL STRUGGLE - From Column 1.

"The statement that an organised Labour minority would make mince-meat of an Independent majority", says the Editorial, "is ridiculous. Independents are not necessarily independent of common sense. Where a proposal had political implications, and the opposition was obviously bent on making political capital out of it, residents can be assured that R.A. candidates would keep a very wary eye on events, and would be perfectly capable of defeating any proposal that would do harm to this town. Mr. Thomas asks us to believe that when his Committee puts up the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker, that they suddenly acquire a magical ability which enables them to look after our interests better than anyone else!

The request that we should turn our eyes to Westminster at local election time, as if it were a Mecca of inspiration, is a poor attempt to confuse the issue. Are we really to believe that Bessie Braddock, Gerald Nabarro, Mr. Gaitskill and Mr. Macmillan are concerned about our specific local problems? These 'local irritations' that Mr. Thomas dismisses are often of the utmost importance to us as residents. They are happening on our doorstep, they affect our amenities our children, our immediate peace of mind and our pockets".

Summing up the Editorial says; "We regret the decision of the Conservative Chairman to make a party political attack on the Residents' Associations. We wish to assure our members that we will continue to judge all matters in the light of the good of the community as a whole. We will not follow the dictates of any national political dogma in the solution of local problems. We wish to disassociate ourselves from the degrading struggle for party political advantage."

## NO ELECTORAL WARD CHANGES YET.

At their recent meeting Basildon Council Finance Committee decided not to ask Essex County Council to make any changes in the wards yet.

The Clerk reminded members that the last change was in 1958, and that the plan for an ultimate electorate of 90,000 was 10 or 12 and 42 Councillors, making one to every 2,000 to 2,500.

Cllr. Phelps suggested; "It would be futile to increase the numbers at present because of the accommodation problem. Let's struggle on for four or five years".



### EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

The judges of the "Billericay Observer" Sketching Competition decided to award the following prizes:-

1st. 10/6d Master D. Nourish, 116, Gloucester Avenue, Chelmsford. (14).

2nd. 10/6d Master S.J. de Lee, Willows Cottage, Willows Green, Chelmsford (age 7).

3rd. 7/6d Master N. de Lee, Willows Cottage, Willows Green, Chelmsford (age 14).

4th. 5/- Miss S.K. de Lee, Willows Cottage, Willows Green, Chelmsford (age 10).

The article "Billericay in 1593" in this issue is the first of a series of studies of Billericay in certain years. The next will be entitled "Billericay in 1706" and will contain much new information about the history of Billericay, based on information in Petre manor records, in the Essex Records Office. The article in this issue is based on the large scale Ralph Aggas map of 1593 in Billericay Branch Library.

---- The Editor.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Saturday October 7th:- Archer Hall, 7.45 p.m., Choral Section of Billericay Operatic Society, and Charles Weher and Orchestra in "Elijah". Admittance 3/-.

Monday October 9th:- Buttsbury Residents' Association, General Meeting, Buttsbury School, 8.0 p.m.

Thursday October 12th:- Basildon Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 94, High Street, Billericay, 6.50 p.m.

"Elizabethan Essex" Exhibition, arranged by Essex Records Office, at Ingatestone Hall, Tuesdays to Saturdays, until October 7th. The Hall is near Ingatestone Railway Station, and about half-a-mile from the Shenfield-Chelmsford road.

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Young Wives Fellowship:- Tuesday  
October 3rd, 8 to 9 p.m.

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ADVERTISEMENT RATES from the Editor.



# FOR THE OLD FOLK

## Billericay O.A.P. - 13th September Meeting.

There was a very good attendance. The meeting started on a sad note, because of the announcement of the passing of a very old and respected member of the Branch, Mrs. Wormald, for whom a minute's silence was observed. The Secretary spoke of the good work Mrs. Wormald had done for the Branch in having the Concert Party at her house each week for practice, this was a great contribution, she had also helped the Branch in her own quiet way. On sick members it was stated that Mr. Ramage, Mr. Pegg, and Mr & Mrs. Sadler were improving, but Mrs. Hodges and Mr. Lockhart were still very queer. Two new members were welcomed. Entertainment was by Mr. F. Sawyer's Concert Party from Westcliff.

## Billericay O.A.P. - 20th September Meeting.

There was a fairly good attendance. On sick members it was stated that Mr. Ramage, Mr. Pegg, Mr & Mrs. Sadler, Mrs. Hodges, and Mr. Lockhart were all improving. They were all wished a speedy recovery. The Secretary gave details of the forthcoming Annual Dinner, and asked those who wished to be present to put their names down. He also stated that the Annual General Meeting would be on the 25th October. He then read out a letter from Mr. Haynes, a past Treasurer of the Branch, who enclosed a donation of £1 and sent all his best wishes to his old friends at the club. The Secretary also stated that it was the wish of the late Mrs. Wormald that the Branch's Concert Party should continue to have their practices at 32, High Street, and this wish was being carried out by her daughter Beryl Wormald. Entertainment was by Cecily Wardle's Concert Party.

## Buttsbury Monday Club.

The meeting attended by 26 members on the 9th September at Buttsbury School was the first Saturday afternoon meeting, as it was realised that evening meetings in the Winter would not be in the interests of the health of members. An amusing time was spent in a debate on the "Good Old Days". On Tuesday September 12th, 24 members spent an enjoyable day on a coach trip to Felixstowe. The September 16th meeting was spent attending Christ Church Fete.

## Sunnymede Friday Club.

After the summer recess the Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club held a general re-opening social on Friday the 15th at Sunnymede School. There were plenty of good things to eat, including a cake made by Mrs. Goodchild. Entertainment was provided by Mrs. D. Long, a visitor, and Club Members. Seven new members joined, and new members are welcome.

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## THE "OBSERVER" CINEMA GUIDE.

Ritz Cinema, Chapel St., Billericay.

Monday September 25th:- (3 Days),  
Donald Sinden, Nicole Berger in  
"THE SIEGE OF SIDNEY STREET" (A).

Thursday September 28th:- (3 Days)  
Fred McMurray, Nancy Olsen in Walt  
Disney's "THE ABSENT MINDED  
PROFESSOR" (U). Also "THE  
HORSEMASTERS" (U).

Sunday Programmes also.

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## ASSEMBLY HALL FOR JUNIOR SCHOOL?

The Schools Sub-Committee have  
favourably recommended the Basildon  
Education Committee for the inclusion  
of an Assembly Hall, for Billericay  
Junior School, in the Minor Building  
Programme for 1963/4, following a  
request from the School Managers.

## STOP PRESS NEWS.

## "SPORTS OBSERVER".

Saturday September 16th:-

Billericay Town 1st XI beat Great  
Waltham home 4-1 in CMEL, Division 1.

Billericay Town 2nd XI drew with  
Britvic away 3-3 in CMEL, Division 3.

Norsey Rangers Res. lost at home 1-2  
to Corringham, Basildon Lge., Div.2.

Saturday September 23rd:-

Billericay Town lost away to Heybridge  
4-6 in CMEL, Division 1.

Billericay Town Res. lost at home to  
Britvic 3-6 in CMEL, Division 3.

Norsey Rangers beat Ilford Ltd. away  
4-1 in Basildon League, Div.1.

Norsey Rangers Res. beat Ilford Ltd.  
Res. at home 7-1, Basildon Lge. Div.2.

Norsey Rangers Minors lost at home to  
Rainham Ath. 3-4 in a friendly.

## Results Summary.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Billericay 1	4	2	0	2	14	11
Billericay 2	2	0	1	1	6	9

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LARGE "GOLD-REEF" APRICOTS -----	SAVE 3d REDUCED FROM 2/9d to 2/6d.
ARMOUR-STAR CHEESE PORTIONS -----	SAVE $1\frac{1}{2}$ d REDUCED FROM 9d to $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.
GIANT FRESH DISINFECTANT -----	SAVE 1/- REDUCED FROM 3/- to 2/-.
LARGE ARDMONA PEAS -----	SAVE $6\frac{1}{2}$ d REDUCED FROM 2/11d to $2\frac{1}{4}$ d.

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"BILLERICAY IN 1593".  
by the Editor.

According to the Ralph Aggas map of 1593, the first houses one met coming into Billericay, were on the "Waie leading to Chilmsforde", where the Hospital now stands. Other houses stood where the railway bridge now is, and on the triangle of land on which now stands the Crown. Three properties stood on the "Via ducens a Billericcae versus Northsee Woods (Norsey Woods). Another three properties stood in "Newe Street", the modern Western Road.

In the High Street itself a concentrated line of houses are shown on both sides as far as where Lion Lane now is, and there are scattered houses as far as Sun Corner. One property is shown in Wellfield Lane, the modern Chantry Way. In Chapel Street there is an unbroken line of houses on each side as far as the Coach & Horses, and isolated houses as far as what is now Hillside Road, where a sandpit and ginger grove is mentioned. Between there and its junction with Sun Street Chapel Street is shown as a tree-lined lane

No houses are shown in Sun Street, but a few are in Laindon Road - "via ducens a Bellericaie versis ecclesiam de Bursted Magna et vers Horndon".

The Windmill is shown on Bell Hill, as is "Old Mell Hill" - the site of an earlier Mill?

A hamlet of a dozen houses is shown in Outwood Common Road, and a smaller group in Outwood Farm Road. "Outwoode Common vastum domini" is shown as a wide stretch of land going from below where the railway now is to Norsey Wood. A group of houses is shown near modern Sunnymede, in "Jacksmiths Lane".

South Green presents a completely different appearance. Outwood Common Road bends to form a crossroads with Hickstars Lane, Grange Road is more towards the west, and Southend Road towards the east. The area in between, which now contains the Recreation Ground, Memorial Hall, and shops etc. is shown as a true green - "Southwoode Green". Round this green a number of houses are grouped.

Less than twenty houses are shown in Great Burstead village, but there are hamlets at Browne's Green (junction of Kennel Lane and Church Street) and at Slices Gate (junction of Southend Road, and the then "Slie Street", now Mill Road). Unfortunately this old and interesting map does not show the Perry Street area, which was out of Great Burstead Parish.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir, ---- Congratulations to the "Billericay Observer" for being independent. The country as a whole will be much better run when all the Councils are composed entirely of independent members. How on earth can party politics control such things as the positioning of car parks, pedestrian crossings etc? At present if you disagree with your Councillor, you can vote for the other candidate, but that might let the other party control the Council, which might be worse. Or you can withhold your vote which, it appears, that 70% of the people do do. On the other hand with an Independent Council there is no possibility of change of party control, and you can then safely vote against a Council member whom you do not agree with.

The stupid pamphlet issued by the Tories could easily have been issued by the local Labour Party, if they were in the same position as the Tories. And indeed, it is quite probable that if the Liberals were in the same position as the Tories then they might have issued a similar leaflet - but there is one good thing about Liberals they help to prevent overall majorities on Councils. - Christopher Phillips.

BOWLING GREEN IMPROVEMENT POSTPONED.

Owing to the fact that it is too late in the year for work to start work on the Bowling Green extension and renovation in Lake Meadows, and the difficulty in getting a suitable tender, the Council have decided to postpone the work until the early Summer of 1962.

COUNCIL WANT DEFINITE EVIDENCE.

Basildon Council have been approached concerning the provision of a grass running and/or cycle track at New Lodge Recreation Ground, Tye Common. Whilst they still require definite evidence as to the need for such facilities, the Parks Committee have indicated they are willing to consider the possibility of providing for them in the lay-out of the New Lodge Recreation Ground, if and when such evidence is forthcoming.

CIVIC FUNCTION CANCELLED.

Basildon Council have decided to cancel their Civic Function which was planned for 20th October, 1961, because of the response for tickets, and rather than risk giving those present an unsatisfactory evening.



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"COUNCIL DOES NOT TAKE ENOUGH NOTICE  
OF DISTRICT'S NEEDS", SAYS INDEPENDENT

Speaking at the recent meeting of Basildon Council's Finance Committee Billericay's Independent representative Cllr. H.E. Wilkins said that he was surprised at the Council's attitude that the formation of a Transport Committee should be left for the time being. He continued; "I am speaking on behalf of the thousands who travel daily from Billericay to London. The conditions are absolutely appalling. It would be a good thing if the Council took a little more notice of the district's needs".

Council Chairman Mrs. C.J. Gadson interrupted; "I resent that remark".

Mr. Wilkins continued; "This matter is not being treated with as much urgency as possible. An article in the January 'Trains Illustrated' states that the ultimate train service from London to Billericay may be reduced. I don't say, however, that we should rush into forming this Committee".

Mrs. Gadson said that a much fuller report should be obtained, and it should be started at the beginning of the Council year. The Council should look into the expense, and the benefits to the public.

Cllr. Pembroke suggested that the meetings would not be too frequent and the expense not too great.

Cllr. Tesoirere, who originally suggested a Transport Committee, said he did not mean that the Council should rush into it.

Cllr. Phelps reminded members that the Council belonged to a joint Transport Committee, which was not publicised. The whole trouble was the bottleneck at Liverpool Street.

It was decided to obtain more information, and consider the matter again in May, at the Council's Annual Meeting.

NO BUS FOR SCHOOL JUNIORS.

The Schools Sub-Committee have decided to ask the Council Works Committee to expedite the work in connection with a footpath along Southend Road, to remove danger to children from South Green attending Billericay Junior School, following a request from Billericay Residents' Association. However, the Committee have decided not to provide transport from South Green to Billericay for junior children attending Billericay School, although the Residents state that the children are exposed to road hazards walking up Bell Hill.

ROUND AND ABOUT  
by  
"WANDERER".

The Council have informed Cromwell Avenue residents that they do not consider the time is right for a meeting on the sandpits development scheme, as the plans have not yet been formally approved. But surely this is the time for a meeting. Once the plans have been approved, the residents will have no right of appeal to anyone, for the Council have Delegated Planning Functions.

I hope that the Council will not allow flats to be built in Newlands Road and Bush Hall Road, when they consider the plans. This is a residential area, most of the house owners are young couples who are buying the houses on mortgages, and they don't want blocks of flats overshadowing them and reducing the value of their properties. Flats are highly unsuitable and out of tune with Billericay, apart from the fact that their high density will overload the already overloaded public services.

Take note Council, from the action of Brentwood Council. Following a new "let the public know" policy they published details of flats to be built in Shenfield. After being flooded with protests they decided not to allow the flats to be built.

I am pleased to note that the Carnival is to be an annual event, and that in future it will not clash with the Hospital Fete.

I too am surprised at the Council's Council's attitude towards the setting up of a Transport Committee. I agree that some information is necessary, before they take a decision. But with overcrowding and the threat of fewer trains from London to Billericay, the overcrowding on the bus service to Chelmsford, and the generally poor state of the local bus services (especially to Basildon) I would have thought that the Council would have treated the matter as one of extreme urgency.

I dislike the idea that the Council should "struggle on" with a minimum of Councillors because of such a small difficulty as accommodation troubles, which could easily be overcome. If the population of Billericay continues to grow at the present rate, three or four thousand more people will be on the electoral roll in the few years when we are going to struggle on. Don't deny the local electors adequate representation! More Councillors are needed to share the burden! And Billericay and Wickford must have a fair share! --- "Wanderer".