

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

Tuesday November 7th, 1961.

Number 98.



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© "Billericay Observer".

"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

## COUNCIL ACCUSED OF DECEIVING PUBLIC

"The argument that the Council have no legal obligation to publish details of future projects not of the usual run of the mill is quite indefensible, in light of the fact that the Council have no statutory obligation to force the issue by creating the customary "fait accompli" with no other object in view to deliberately deceive the public", said Mr. J.A. Dodd, quoting from a letter he had sent to Basildon Council, during a debate on flats and planning publicity at last Friday's Billericay Residents' Association Committee Meeting. Mr. Dodd compared the lack of publicity given to the flats to the large amount of publicity given to the Norsey Woods Water Tower project - "the latter would be appear to be a less valid case for advance publicity". Mr. Dodd said that he had been worried about the "fait accompli" in Council affairs for several years. Because of this situation, he felt there was little point on holding a Public Meeting on the Flats, as with the Industrial Estate. "However", he added, "if the Council have made any technical slips we should go to town on them. Passing the flats on the Bush Hall Estate before informing the public was legal, but certainly not moral. As for the Council talk about 'no legal obligation' that is rot".

Commented Mrs. Bird; "Local people are very, very angry about this, and they aren't going to put up with this sort of thing much longer".

Mr. Hillyard, whose bungalow in Cromwell Avenue will be overshadowed by the Radford Way flats, which will be on piles, said; "It's no use opposing flats in principle. Obviously they are entirely out of character with the central part of the town. If flats have to be built they should be built as part of a comprehensive development of a large area of land right out of the town, not blobs here and there all over the place, filling in odd corners of land. By asking for objections on the Radford Way flats the Council have created a precedent, which they will have to follow with other cases.

Mr. Ireland thought that it was inevitable that Billericay would be closely developed, as it had to play its part in housing the nation. However, the Association should see that the development was of the right type, and not too close.

Mr. Casson, Secretary, said that he thought the whole matter boiled down to advance publicity of planning applications.

It was decided that there would be little point in holding a Public Meeting. Instead it was decided to go ahead with an article on flats in the Association's magazine "The Mayflower", and to issue a Press Statement, giving the full views of the Association on the erection of flats in Billericay.



## "DORIS ARCHER" IN BILLERICAY.

Gwen Berryman, "Doris Archer" of the famous radio series "The Archers" visited the improved branch of the International Stores in High Street, Billericay. She stayed for three hours autographing photographs, and an estimated 1,000 people visited the shop, on Friday.

The improved shop was brought into operation on Monday. There is a spacious, well-lit self-service section, and a refrigerated meat counter. The latest methods of hygiene are used.

## R.A. SUNNYMEDE MEETING.

About thirty people attended a meeting organised by Billericay Residents' Association, at Sunnymede School last Friday, called to discuss the formation of an Area Committee for Sunnymede and Outwood Common, as has been formed in South Green. This was despite a bad thunderstorm.

Cllr. Wilkins, Billericay's Independent R.A. Councillor gave a talk on the expansion of Billericay. He referred to the overspill of London, and the swallowing up of the Green Belt, and said that London could easily stretch from Reading to Southend. He then referred to the problems this increase in population had caused in Essex. He produced a map of the area, pointing out various features, and using statistics, to prove that expansion in Billericay was outstripping public services.

One question was asked why Sunnymede people had seen so little of the officials since the election. Mr. Cox, Chairman, agreed that the officers visited Sunnymede very little, and said that the object of an Area Committee was to fill this gap.

After a discussion it was decided that there was no call for an Area Committee for the time being.

## SUCCESS OF FIRST BAZAAR.

Billericay's first Christmas Bazaar of the year, organised by Billericay W.I. at the W.I. Hall last Saturday week was highly successful. A large variety of goods were on sale.

The bazaar was opened by Mrs. How of the Essex Federation of Womens' Institutes who said that she hoped the Bazaar would be a financial success, in order that the Billericay ladies could progress further next year.

## NEW YOUTH CLUB FOR BILLERICAY?

Brian Richardson of Mountnessing Road, Billericay, is hoping, by a series of fund raising events to raise enough money to form a new Youth Club in Billericay. Last Saturday week, Brian, who is President of the A.Y.P.A. and Pilgrim youth clubs connected with the Parish Church, ran a dance which raised £15, and he has plans for a Jumble Sale to be held just before Christmas, and another dance.

In an interview with the "Observer" he said; "It would be non-denominational, and I hope to run it at least two nights a week from the Archer Hall. I hope to raise £100, and also get a subsidy from the County Council. The club would be based on the Social Centre idea, with, I hope, a film projector, and Hobbies Section".

A report from Mrs. Casson on a meeting in Billericay Police Station on the Albemarle Report, provoked a discussion on youth at last Friday's Billericay Residents' Association Committee Meeting.

Referring to Brian Richardson's aims Mr. Drury said; "We want more co-ordination between youth organisations".

Commented Mrs. Bird; "The trouble is they have no permanent premises. Every time all their equipment has to be carted away again.

Suggested Mr. Ashley; "We should ask the Council to form a youth Council".

Referring to the Buttsbury Residents' Associations attempts to form a Community Association in Perry Street (a site has already been reserved) Mr. Dodd said; "Out of 60 organisations in the town, only three replied to an invitation to participate".

It was decided to watch developments.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPANSION.

Under consideration at today's meeting of Basildon Education Committee is a motion from the Schools-Sub recommending that further consideration be given to the accommodation needs of the school when compiling the 1963/4 Minor Capital Programme. This was decided after a request from the School Governors that five demountable classrooms be provided by September, 1962.. It was also decided to defer ultimate planning of the School, despite a Governors' request to plan immediately. Page 2.



## LEGION STILL IN THE RED.

Billericay British Legion still has a bank overdraft - £153 - revealed Mr.C.Meeson, Treasurer, at the recent Annual General Meeting at the Rose Hall, but this was a reduction on last year's figure of £195. Paid-up membership had increased from 63 to 82. Mr.Meeson said that last year Poppy Day collections had raised £476, and this year he hoped that over £500 would be raised.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr.Peart, who thanked the twenty-two members present for coming along, and said he would like to see more at all meetings. He mentioned that the cost of running the Rose Hall was £272 a year, excluding repairs.

Mr.Alston, Chairman, referred to past activities, and went on to condemn war books. "I am sure I am speaking for all ex-servicemen", he said, "when I deplore the number of war books adversely criticising war leaders published, written by men who hadn't even smelt the war". He added, "It's easy to criticise after fifteen or sixteen years when you can see both sides of the question".

Mr.Nunn, reporting for the Service Committee, said that in the days of the welfare state there were few ex-servicemen to be helped, but the branch were helping three at the moment.

Mr.S.Forder, Secretary, drew attention to the need for re-decorating the Hall, when it was let to outsiders. Mr.K.Fearn presented a report in connection with the Legion's work with Billericay Carnival, and drew attention to the need for one organisation to deal with the street collecting. Mr.Alston, presenting the report of the Ways & Means Committee referred to the success of the Old Tyme Dances and Whist Drives, and the part they played in raising money for the Legion.

Officers Elected:- Mr.A.A. Peart (President) Mr.Alston (Chairman), Mr S.Forder (Secretary) Mr.C.Meeson (Treasurer).

## CARNIVAL DATE ALTERED.

Billericay Carnival will be held on July 21st next year, not on June 30th, as street collections on the original date would have clashed with Animal Flag Day.

## STATION ROAD SURVEY.

When residents of Station Road, Billericay opposed the concrete make-up of the road they drew the Council's attention to the fact that the road would be heavily used by traffic at speed.

At the recent committee meeting the frontagers' leader Mr.Hopkins revealed that on a recent Saturday he compiled a survey of all cars using the road (make-up is almost complete) for two periods of one hour. This revealed that four out of five cars were through cars, and that most cars exceeded 40 m.p.h. Mr.Hopkins stated that he thought this danger would increase, when the road was finally made up. A survey is being compiled for presentation to Easildon Council.

## FRONTAGERS' MEETING.

Frontagers of Hillside Road (off Chapel Street), Billericay, are holding a meeting at the W.I. Hall tomorrow (Wednesday) to discuss the mess made of the make-up of the road, which they claim was badly planned, supervised, and executed.

## BULLDOZERS KNOCK DOWN HEDGE -- BUT RESIDENTS CONTINUE FIGHT.

Bulldozers knocked down the hedge surrounding South Green Recreation Ground last week, but the South Green Committee of Billericay Residents' Association are going ahead with plans for a Public Meeting (See "Dates For Your Diary"). The Council knocked down the hedge at the request of the Road Safety Committee, who claimed that holes in the hedge meant that children could run straight out into the busy Southend Road. Playground equipment was moved to Bell Hill Council Estate some months ago.

Commented South Green Committee Chairman, Mr.Featherstone; "We have suggested that a fence be put round the Recreation Ground, but the Council have never replied. Now children can run out into the road anywhere - my wife saw two near accidents in ten minutes recently.. We want any suggestions for further action to come from the meeting but we must have a good attendance".

## VARIETY CONCERT.

A Variety Concert held by St.Andrew's Hospital League of Friends at the Archer Hall last Thursday week raised £70 for funds.



### EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

Plans are now being completed for the 100th issue of the "Billericay Observer". This will appear on December 5th, and it is intended to include a special two-page supplement, with reproductions of parts of the 1st and 50th issues, and general items on the history of the "Observer". The demand is bound to be high, and it is hoped to print 1,000 copies. Make sure of your copy by placing a regular order!

The "Observer" is now on sale at Weedon's, South Green, and Newman's, Outwood Common. This will provide improved coverage of the South Green/Great Burstead and Outwood Common/Sunnymede areas. Of course, the "Observer" can also be purchased at Howards, Marshalls, and Matthews in the High Street, and at Shuttleworth Stores and Queens Park Stores in Perry Street, in addition to the two new newsagents.

Circulation continues to increase. This issue is a 10-page one, but the next issue is expected to be 12 pages.

----- The Editor.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Forthcoming Events In Billericay.

Saturday 11th November:- British Legion, Billericay Branch, Poppy Day, Old Tyme & Sequence Dance, in aid of Haig's Poppy Fund, 8 - 11.45, Archer Hall. Admission 4/-.

Tuesday 14th November:- Basildon Council Finance Committee, Council Chamber, 94, High St., 6.50 p.m.

Thursday 16th November:- South Green Recreation Ground, removal of hedge, Public Meeting at South Green School, 8 p.m. Organised by Billericay Residents' Assn.

Thursday 23rd November:- Basildon Council Meeting, Timberlog Lane Secondary School, Basildon, 6.50 p.m.

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19th, Communion, Rev. T.A. Gardiner.

Young Wives Fellowship:- Tuesday  
November 14th, Christ Church,  
8 - 9 p.m.

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ADVERTISEMENT RATES from the Editor.



# For the Old Folk

## Billericay O.A.P. - 25th October Meeting.

There was a very good attendance. With regard to sick members Mrs.W.Speller, Mrs.Candler, Mrs.Newell, and Mr.Emery were all improving; Mrs.August was a little better; Mr.Speller was fair. The afternoon was devoted to the Annual General Meeting. Officers elected were:- Mr.W.Joseph (Chairman), Mr.W.Riches (Secretary), and Mr.J.Lewis (Treasurer) who were all returned unopposed. They said they hoped the next year would be as successful as the last. Mrs.Webb and Mr.Milburn were again appointed Auditors.

## Billericay O.A.P. - 1st November Meeting.

95 were present. Sick members were wished a speedy recovery. It appeared that Mr.Speller was very ill, Mrs.August, Mrs.Newell, Mrs.Candler, Mrs.W.Speller, and Mr.Emery were all improving. Birthday honours were accorded Mr.Emery who was 90 years of age. The Secretary read out various correspondence - including one from the Old Peoples' Welfare Committee about prescription charges. An enjoyable afternoon's entertainment was provided by the Laindon No.1 Branch Concert Party.

## Buttsbury Monday Club.

At last Saturday week's meeting at Buttsbury School a talk was given by Mr.W.P.Grant, Editor of the "Billericay Observer" on the "History of Billericay". The Secretary gave out details of the Christmas Party and Pantomime Visit - almost every seat had been taken. He also stressed the need for more members - particularly men. He said the membership was "static".

## South Green Thursday Club.

On the 26th October Mr.Anderson presided and reported three sick members - Mrs.Goody, Miss Nash, and Mrs.Buckledee. Birthday honours were sung for Mrs.Gregory & Mrs.Goody, who was 86. Frank Sawyer's Concert Party entertained. Mr.Moore gave a report of the Annual Dinner held on Saturday 21st. Caterers were Sheperds of Laindon. Entertainment was by a group of members led by Social Secretary, Mrs.Galton for the first part of the evening, and by the Chelmsford & District Scottish Country Dancing Society for the second part, to the music of the bagpipes played by Piper Peter Quinn. On November 2nd Mr.Anderson reported that he had visited the three sick members, who were progressing, although Mrs.Buckledee still had some pain after her fall. Birthday honours were accorded to Mrs.Hall and Mrs.Pearson. Entertainment was by Cecily Wardle and her Trio.

## Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

Despite the bad weather there was a good attendance at Sunnymede School last Friday week. Some new members were welcomed. After tea, and raffles, members had a sing-song, with Mrs.Bett playing the piano. The Secretary, Mrs.Morrison, sung some solos, and a highly enjoyable evening was spent. New members welcome.

Old Peoples' Welfare Committee News:- Mrs.Barr has the following items if any pensioners want them: an Oil Stove, a 2' 6" bedstead with Overlay, an Electric Stove, a Television Set (B.B.C. only), and a Battery Wireless set. The Committee also has two wheelchairs which may be borrowed. Mrs.Barr is gathering information from areas where a laundry service for housebound pensioners is in operation, in the hope that something similar might be possible in Billericay.



Advertisers' Announcement.

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THE "OBSERVER" CINEMA GUIDE.

Ritz, Chapel St., Billericay.

Monday November 6th (3 Days):-  
Charles Herbert, Jo Morrow, in "THIRTEEN GHOSTS" (A). In Illusion O with new ghost viewer. Also "SCREAMING MIMI".

Thursday November 9th (3 Days):-  
Kenneth More, Danielle Darrieux in "THE GREENGAGE SUMMER" (A). Also "BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA" (U). Special All-U Matinee on Saturday.

Monday November 13th (3 Days):-  
Clifford Evans, Oliver Reed in "CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF" (X). Also "SHADOW OF THE CAT" (X).

Thursday November 16th (3 Days):-  
Virgila Texera, Mariann Benet, in "BOY WHO STOLE A MILLION" (U). Also "I'M ALL RIGHT JACK" (U).

"SPORTS OBSERVER".

Saturday October 28th:-

Billericay Town lost at home 0-6 to Barking Res. in Essex Intermediate Cup.

Billericay Town Res. beat Great Totham Res. away 7-2 in CMEL, Div.3.

Norsey Rangers beat Pegasus at home 7-0 in Bsldon. Lge. Div.1.

Norsey Rangers Res. beat Pegasus Res. away 7-0 in Div.2.

Saturday November 4th:-

Billericay Town beat Mildmay Ironworks at home 7-1 in CMEL, Div.1.

Norsey Rangers beat Basildon West End at home 4-2, in B.L. Div.1.

Norsey Rangers Res. beat West End Res. away 5-3 in B.L. Div.2.

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GUY FAWKES PARTY.

Over 200 people attended Billericay Conservatives' Guy Fawkes Party at "Brays", Laindon Road, on Saturday.



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## BILLERICAY IN 1706.

by the Editor.

In my last article I did not have space to deal with Inns outside Billericay town mentioned in the 1706 rental. At South Green (Southwood Green) was the "Royal Oak", the property of Samuel Thresher, and the "Hoe", somewhere on Bell Hill, is shown as the property of Abm. Thresher. The "Bell", which stood at the bottom of Bell Hill until the end of the last century, is mentioned as belonging to John James, who I will write about in a later article.

As I have mentioned before Samuel Thresher owned the prosperous "Red Lyon" (on the same site today) and "White Lyon" (Shelley's) inns in the High Street. John Thresher is mentioned in Billericay as early as 1647, when he agreed to pay an annual rental of £6 to John Kirkwood for the "Fox" Beerhouse, probably at the corner of Stock Road and Norsey Road, just above the modern "Crown". This yeoman died four years later at the age of 33, but his wife Elizabeth outlived him until September, 1670. He had a son Samuel, who died in 1702, aged 56, and it is this Samuel's son, Samuel, who we are concerned with.

Apart from owning the "Red Lyon", "White Lyon", and "Royal Oak", Samuel is mentioned as owning a "tenement and garden" (possibly Bassom's) in the High Street, "a cottage and garden late Marrages" and "a tenement, orchard, and four crofts late Symon Hudson", at Southwood Green, and a "cottage little garden and yard", and "a cottage and orchard" in Church Street, Gt. Burstead. In the Manor of Cowbridge he owned "a cottage, stable, and orchard" and "two crofts of land". The rent totals of these lands were very high, indicating great value, and Samuel must have been a man of some wealth. It reflects credit on the Threshers' business acumen, when one reflects that Samuel's grandfather started by renting a Inn. Little is known of his character, and the exact date of his death is not known, though it was probably around 1737.

After his death his property seems to have been split up among various relations, who do not seem to have managed it too well! By 1750 Abm. Thresher was occupier of the "Red Lyon" and Samuel Wall the owner of property once owned by Abm's family. By 1765 the only land owned by the Threshers in Billericay was a tenement in the town owned by Stephen, and some fields at the end of Wellfield Lane (Chapel Street) owned by Barry Thresher.

The last mention of this once-wealthy family in Billericay is in 1787, when reference is made to a Mary Thresher, carrying on the family connection with Inns, with an alehouse at Great Burstead.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir, ---- I would refer to the article appearing on Page 12 of your edition of the 24th October concerning the treatment of Cllr. Wilkins at the hands of the Chairman of the Council.

I take great exception to the rebuke of Cllr. Wilkins on the grounds that it is the duty of all Council members to obtain full clarification of any points on which they feel there is any doubt or any misunderstanding may arise.

I regard Cllr. Wilkins as being my personal representative in the Council Chamber and I am perturbed to learn that he may not in future be able to ask the questions which I would like to be asked on various subjects. There has been no suggestion in the past that the questions asked by Cllr. Wilkins were in any way irrelevant.

I feel that if the Chairman of the Council is not prepared to allow, or to answer, questions which are relevant to the subject under debate then the Chairman is not fulfilling her duty to the members of the wards represented by the Council -- B. Morris, "Norrock", Stock Road, Billericay.

#### FLORAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP.

The November meeting held on Wednesday November 1st was at the W.I. Hall, when Miss Small from the Leigh Flower Group gave us "Ideas for Christmas". Members competition "Harvest Home", fruit and flowers for a buffet table, Novice Class, 1st. Mrs. McCardle, 2nd. Mrs. Shedel, 3rd. Mrs. Cousins, H.C., Mrs. Maycock. Advanced, 1st. Mrs. Lee, 2nd. Miss Needham, 3rd. Mrs. Turner.

#### "BAN BOMB" PROTESTS.

Billericay Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament have protested to the Russian Embassy about the explosion of a 30-megaton bomb by the Soviet Union. They have also written to the Minister of Health expressing concern at the lack of precautions from fall-out from the tests of the Soviet Union.

#### GUY FAWKES DANCE.

A successful Guy Fawkes Dance held by Outwood Common Community Assn. at South Green Hall on Saturday is the first of a series of social events. Others planned include a pantomime outing for children, and an old folks outing.

#### ROUND AND ABOUT

by  
"WANDERER".

Once again the question of youth clubs in Billericay has been brought up. Many of the local Churches run clubs (i.e. The Pilgrims at the Parish Church), there is an excellent club at the Secondary School, and there are other organisations such as the Red Cross and Junior Council for the Preservation of Rural England. However, since the closure of the Teen & Twenty Club a vacuum has existed - i.e. there has been no club for young people run by young people. I hope that Brian Richardson will meet with success, for I am sure a club of the type he proposes would be most welcome.

Of course the question does arise - what about the more informal type of meeting place for teenagers - the coffee bar. I am sure that one would be most welcome in Billericay, but there are several factors to consider first.

The first is that the coffee bar would attract "undesirables" from Chelmsford, Basildon, Brentwood, and so on. I do not think that this argument is valid. All these towns have one or more coffee bars, and the "undesirables" are hardly likely to come to Billericay.

Secondly is the question of spoiling the High Street. Although it has been practically ruined already a Coffee Bar wouldn't improve its appearance, and would be entirely out of keeping. I suggest that it be constructed underground, perhaps as part of a comprehensive shop development, or even conversion of a cellar.

Thirdly, is there a need? I am sure there is. However, no doubt, some people will refer to the youth clubs or talk about "good homes". Some do not like youth clubs, and Coffee Bars do not mean broken homes. I am sure a Coffee Bar would be welcome among younger people ---- "Wanderer".

#### BOOKING NOW!

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