

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

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Tuesday November 21st, 1961.

"Billericay Observer".

Number 99.



"The only newspaper printed and published in Billericay".

## PROTEST MEETING ON MENACE TO CHILDREN

Residents of the South Green area of Billericay crowded into South Green Primary School on Thursday to attend a meeting organised by the South Green Committee of Billericay Residents' Association to protest to Basildon Council about the safety menace caused to children by the removal of the hedge round South Green Recreation Ground, and to demand 'or the return of the playground equipment, which has been moved to the Bell Hill Play Area.

The Chairman, Mr.C.Featherstone gave a brief summary of events to date. He stated that in the early part of the year the Council had accepted a suggestion from the Road Safety Committee that the hedge be removed, as the holes in it allowed children to run into the road. The Committee protested, and after a long and fruitless correspondence they asked the Council to meet them on the site. The Council refused this request, and this resulted in the meeting being called. Mr.Featherstone then asked for suggestions.

The first person to speak said that the Council were quite right in saying that the Green was less dangerous without the hedge, and that the matter ought to be pursued no further.

The next person to speak asked how it could be safer, and said a decent fence should be erected. The next speaker suggested that drivers had a clearer chance to see children.

Mr.Best pointed out that were two bends in the road, one by the Memorial Hall, and the other by the "New Plough". In both cases drivers could not see far ahead. The next speaker suggested that a decent fence would stop balls from rolling into the road, and if they went over the top, the children would have to run to the gate, and stop and think.

The first speaker then stated that Southend Road and Grange Road (bordering the Recreation Ground) were used as race tracks, and that the condition of neither was satisfactory. He suggested that the matter be taken up on those lines.

The next person to speak emphasised that a Recreation Ground was needed, and that South Green must have one. He continued; "We hear of so much money being spent elsewhere in the Urban District, its time some was spent in Billericay (shouts of "Hear!Hear!"). The matter must not be left to stand. In urban areas an iron fence is put round recreation grounds, and an iron fence with gates is needed here. Some sort of public protest should be made".

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Page 1.



### PROTEST MEETING.

Continued From Page 1.

The next speaker pointed out that if the playground equipment remained at Bell Hill, then 75% of the children from the lower end of South Green would play in the streets. He also reminded those present that if the Green was built on the whole character of South Green would be lost - "after all it is called South Green".

The final speaker suggested that a crash barrier at the gates of the fence would prevent children from running straight into the road.

A motion was passed asking the Council to erect a fence in character with the district, with gates at convenient points, round the Ground. Another motion passed asked the Council to restore the equipment to the Recreation Ground, only at the Memorial Hall end, on the Grange Road side. Both motions were passed almost unanimously.

Footnote; South Green is shown on a map as early as 1593, although it was much larger than the present "green". The first mention of a name is in 1706 - "Southwood Green".

### CARNIVAL CHEQUES PRESENTED.

At a Dance organised by Billericay Carnival Committee at the Archer Hall last Friday week cheques amounting to almost £600 were presented to the Billericay Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, St. Andrews' Hospital League of Friends, and various youth organisation by this year's Carnival Queen, Miss Hilary Ambrose.

Meanwhile the Carnival Committee are going ahead with plans for next year's Carnival. The Carnival Queen Dance has been arranged for May 25th. Various displays are planned for the Carnival Fete. At last Thursday's meeting the need for more helpers, and the date change from July 21st to June 30th were emphasised.

### HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE COFFEE BAR.

Brian Richardson, President of the Billericay Church youth club "The Pilgrims", who hopes to form a non-sectarian youth club, would like to see a coffee bar opened in a central position in Billericay. He feels it would stop local youngsters roaming the streets.

### £1,500 MORE NEEDED FOR NEW CHURCH.

Writing in the Programme of the Billericay Methodist Church Christmas Sale on Thursday and Saturday this week the Minister, the Rev. N. J. Earl states that the New Church Building Fund stands at £2,820. He continues; "This does not seem much with which to pay for a building costing £20,000, but we shall receive from the War Damage Commissioners £10,800; from the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust £4,000; and from the Chapel Committee £1,000. Thus we must ourselves raise a further £1,500 to complete the scheme, and provide for a small surplus necessary in these days of rising costs. We have set ourselves a target of £750 for the Bazaar - half the amount which remains to be raised".

The cover of the programme shows an artist's impression of the new Church. It will be of fairly conventional appearance, with steps leading up to a concrete platform before the main door. Most of the front will be taken up by three long windows, and a large cross will cover part of one side wall. The Church will be constructed in front of the present building in Western Road, (the present building will probably be used as a Church Hall), and will include vesteries for minister, choir, and stewards, and will provide for an organ to be added as soon as possible. The Church will accommodate 260 people, and there will be adequate space for car parking.

### FOOTPATHS TO BE SIGNPOSTED.

Basildon Council are making preliminary arrangements for a programme of signposting footpaths and bridleways in the district. Existing signposts to public footpaths will be repaired and repainted wherever necessary, and in addition consideration will be given to indicating the number of each footpath in accordance with the reference on the Definitive Map.

### CONFERENCE CANCELLED.

A half-day conference at the W.I. Hall, which was to have been held by local Conservatives last Saturday on "Britain's Place As A World Power" has been cancelled. Speakers were to have included Mr. E. Gardner M.P., and Mr. Tom Iremonger M.P. Page 2.



#### MODERN CHURCH FOR NEW ESTATE.

Within the next five years it is hoped that Billericay's newest estate - the Walthamstow Borough Council Estate at Outwood Common - will have a modern and contemporary Church. The Church will also serve the older Sunnymede Estate.

A recent meeting held by the Rev. G. R. Holley, Vicar of Great Burstead, at Sunnymede School on the subject, was well attended. Father Holley explained that land had been acquired for the Church, and architectural plans, and a model of the proposed building were on show. The meeting also learned that the Diocese of Chelmsford had offered £10,000 towards the cost, and that the Parishes of Great Burstead and Billericay would also be giving financial support. A Church Committee was formed.

The Sunday after the meeting a Family Service was held in the School at 4.0 p.m. to pray for the success of the new foundation. Well over 70 people attended. Plans have been made for a weekly Sunday Service, probably to be held in the School, commencing on Advent Sunday, 3rd December, with Holy Communion at 8.30 a.m., and a Family Service and Communion on the following Sunday, 10th December, at 9.30 a.m.

#### FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME.

The Council have accepted a tender for a surface water sewerage scheme for north-western Billericay. This scheme is of two main sections, the first being the culverting of the existing stream between Perry Street and Mountnessing Road, and the second the partial re-alignment of Mountnessing Brook from the point of entry of the culvert to the River Wid. The stream between Perry Street and Mountnessing Road, serves at present as the main surface water carrier for the area, and is liable to flood. The Mountnessing Brook must be widened and deepened over a considerable length in order to provide an outlet at the correct level for the proposed culvert, together with some realignment of the Brook. It is hoped that work on the Scheme will commence early in the New Year.

#### LIGHTING FOR NEW CAR PARK.

Basildon Council have agreed to the installation of three flood lights in the St. Mary's Avenue Car Park in the High Street, also the provision of a street lamp at the junction of the access road to the car park with the High Street, to replace the existing gas lamps at a total estimated cost of £275. The lighting of the Car Park adjoining the Council Offices is also under consideration.

#### HE WISHED CHURCH BUILDERS HAD TAKEN A LONG TERM VIEW.

Opening the Annual Christmas Bazaar of Billericay Congregational Church on Saturday, the Minister, the Rev. Wilkinson said; "I have been reading through the Minute Books of the building of the Church 123 years ago. I often wish that those people had taken a long-term view, and left money for the repairs to the Church. This year we re-pointed the brickwork of the Church, and the builder tells me that this is the first time this has been done since the Church was built. Many people do not realise that we have to maintain a Church, a hall, and a Manse - that is a very heavy commitment. With the money we make today we hope to pay for this year's repairs, and next year's as well.

Stalls at the Bazaar, which was held in the Mayflower Hall, were run by various Church organisations. One feature was a scale model of the Church, with a slit for contributions.

#### RESIDENTS WOULD LIKE BY-PASS.

Feelings expressed at last Thursday's meeting, organised by the Residents' Association, at South Green, indicated that the majority present would like to see a Billericay By-Pass.

One member said that the construction of the Purfleet Tunnell and Basildon N.W. Feeder Road (Upper Mayne) would result in the future traffic going through Billericay being very heavy. As a result there would be a bottleneck by the Station. Suggested routes were Tye Common Road - Perry Street or Laindon Road - Kennel Lane - Bell Hill - Chapel Street - Norsey Road.

Another meeting will be held in South Green shortly.



EDITORIAL.

Editor:- Wynford P. Grant.

Editorial Offices:-

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

Phone:- Billericay 1927.

The 100th issue of the "Billericay Observer", out on Tuesday December 5th, will include a special two-page supplement, dealing with the paper's history. In this it is hoped to include reproductions of parts of the 1st and 50th issues, to illustrate the progress of the paper. The 100th issue will also introduce a new and permanent set of headings in connection with the paper. On the front page the town crier will stay the same, but there will be a new style of type for the words "Billericay Observer", and the portions at the moment typewritten will be replaced by printed lettering. A more rustic heading will be used for the "For The Old Folk" section of the paper.

Some readers may have seen the "Observer" mentioned on last Sunday weeks' B.B.C. television programme "All Your Own" (in which the "Observer" was featured last February) in connection with a youngster who makes crosswords - Barrie Hay. As the "Observer" will be extending its number of pages shortly, it has been decided to include a crossword for a few issues, as an experiment. It has also been decided to start a Childrens' Corner, and have a Teenagers' Column, in response to popular demand.

----- The Editor.

"DATES FOR YOUR DIARY" is on Page 6 of this issue.

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ADVERTISEMENT RATES from the Editor.  
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"Observer" pays.



# For the Old Folk

## Billericay O.A.P. - 8th November Meeting.

There was a good attendance. A Minute's silence was observed for the passing of an old member - Mr.E.Speller. Both the Chairman and Secretary paid tribute to the work Mr.Speller had done for the Branch. On sick members it was stated that Mrs.August, Mrs.W.Speller, Mrs.Candler, and Mr.Emery were all improving. Mrs.Newell was given a welcome back after being away sick. The brighter side of the afternoon was that there was to be another Wedding shortly of two members - Mrs.Whitworth and Mr.Arney. A cheque for £5 was presented to them by the Chairman. They were both wished a very happy married life with good health. The Secretary stated that the Branch would have to be re-named the "Billericay Matrimonial Bureau", as there had been several Weddings of Branch members lately. Entertainment was by Grace Walker and her Concert Party.

## Billericay O.A.P. - 15th November Meeting.

There was a good attendance. On sick members it was stated that Mrs.W.Speller, Mrs.Candler, Mrs.August, and Mr.Emery were all improving; Mr.Gill was ill with Bronchitis. They were all wished a speedy recovery to good health. The Secretary urged members who wished to go the week's holiday to Yarmouth, and to the Pantomime at Westcliffe, to put their names down as soon as possible. The Secretary expressed his congratulations to Mr & Mrs.Arney, on their marriage. They brought a Wedding Cake to the Branch, which was cut up and handed round to members. A cake sent by a member, Mrs.Byron, was raffled for club funds. The Branch was entertained by Mrs. Simpson with Monologues and Recitations, Songs from Mrs.M.Horne, Mrs.Plumridge, and Mr.Joseph, and a Duet rendered by Mr.Riches and Mr.Wiltshire.

## Buttsbury Monday Club.

At last Saturday week's meeting at Buttsbury School, the Chairman, Mr.Williams, thanked Mr.Leswell for making a cupboard for the Branch's cups. The Secretary, Mr.Bond, thanked Mr.Williams for giving forty cups to the branch. The Treasurer (Mrs.Spaul) presented an interim report, which showed that the bank balance had increased by £3-3-0, that the hall was paid until Easter, and that there were no outstanding bills. This was applauded by members. Cakes made by Mrs.Rutherford, Mrs.Wren, Mrs.Kedgell, and Mrs.Leswell were auctioned. Wynford P.Grant, Editor of the "Billericay Observer" gave a talk entitled "The History of Buttsbury & Perry Street", and various questions were asked by members. The meeting ended with a game of Bingo. The need for new members was stressed.

## Sunnymede & Outwood Common Friday Club.

At last Friday week's meeting at Sunnymede School attendance was down to 17, because of bad weather. Raffles were held, and games of Bingo enjoyed. The meeting ended with Old Songs, with Mrs.Brett at the Piano, and Solos by Mrs.Morrison. New members welcome on Fridays at Sunnymede School.

Old Peoples' Welfare Committee:- Mrs.Barr has two 3' metal beds with flop mattresses, hardly used, and a battery radio, for any pensioner who wants them. Many gifts in kind and of money have been coming in for the Christmas Parcels Scheme. Next year's Annual Party for old people will be held in February.



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### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

25th November, 1961. 3 p.m.

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In Aid of New Church Fund.

Social at 7.45. Admission 2/-.

Refreshments.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

#### Forthcoming Events In Billericay

Wednesday 22nd November:- Council For the Preservation of Rural England, Billericay Group, a talk "What Of Our Trees?" by C.H.A. Robson, Forestry Officer, Essex County Council, W.I.Hall, 8 p.m.

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

Thursday 23rd and Saturday 25th November:- Methodist Church Bazaar, Western Rd., 3 p.m.

Saturday 25th November:- Christ Church Perry St., Bazaar, 3 p.m.

### THE "OBSERVER" CINEMA GUIDE.

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All programmes last 3 days.

Monday Nov. 20th:- Peter Finch in "NO LOVE FOR JOHNNIE" (X). Also "OCTOBER MOTH" (A).

Thursday Nov. 23rd:- Gordon MacRae, Shirley Jones, in "OKLAHOMA" (U). First programme starts 4.55.

Monday Nov. 27th:- Farley Granger in "STRANGER ON A TRAIN" (A). Also "FEVER IN THE BLOOD" (A).

Thursday Nov. 30th:- James Robertson Justice in "RAISING THE WIND" (U). Also "THE MALPAS MYSTERY" (U).

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

Billericay Remembrance Sunday Parade formed at the Rose Hall, and marched down Chapel Street, marshalled by Mr. Alston, Legion Chairman, to the Service in the Parish Church, conducted by the Rev. S. Powley, assisted by the Rev. Wilkinson and Rev. N. J. Earl. After the service the laying of wreaths by individuals and local organisations took place at the War Memorial.

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## BILLERICAY IN 1706.

by the Editor.

In my last article I dealt with one of the two great men in Billericay at that time - Samuel Thresher. In this article I will deal with the other - John Fishpoole. He lived at the large house of "Hurlocks" (which stood next to the Westminster Bank), and was son of Joseph Fishpoole. Joseph Fishpoole was a wool merchant, and was apparently a man of some means. In 1669 he was prosperous enough to issue his own Tradesmans' Token - or money - which bore the sign of a Woolpack, denoting his trade.

John's trade is uncertain, but it is quite possible that he followed in his father's footsteps. Apart from owning "Hurlocks" he owned the prosperous "White Hart" Inn, which stood on the site of what is now Barclays Bank. He also owned "a tenement, barne, stable, and 11 crofts vocat Salmon and Hales" in Slie Street (Mill Road) - quite a substantial holding - "a barne, and six crofts called Hapcrofts & Ratfeild" in Jacksmiths Lane (Jacksons Lane), and 39 acres of land and a tenement, in various parts of the Manor of Cowbridge, to the west of the town. In 1749 he attained the high position of Sherrif of Essex. His sister Anne Fishpoole, married Henry Abbot of Earles Colne, and when she died in 1759 left £100 to be laid out in the purchase of lands, or invested in public funds, "the interest to be equally divided between five poor widows of Great Burstead". This was known as "Fishpoole's Gift".

Another prosperous person seems to have been John James. He owned a house next to the "White Lyon" (Shelley's) in the High Street, and the "Bell" Inn, at the bottom of Bell Hill. He also owned a "barne (formerly a cottage) and a garden" in Jacksmiths Lane, and land off Bell Hill "called the King's Garden and St. Ellen's Mead". His name is also given for paying rents "for of a garden (upon which a barne was formerly built) and now a Presbyterian meeting house". Although it is not surprising in view of Billericay's strong Reformer bias, the existence of a Presbyterian meeting house in Billericay has not been known of before. This meeting house is also mentioned in the 1738 and 1765 rentals, but no record of it has survived, nor is there any trace of a building which might have served as a Meeting House. It must be assumed, that as with the Quaker Meeting House in the town, around 1800, the attendances fell off, and the building decayed.

Tracing the history of Billericay at this time through the Manor rentals is not easy, as the High Street from the Red Lyon was in the Manor of Cowbridge. However, Burghstead Lodge (the Civil Defence H.Q.) was probably "Nathaniel Lewis, for a tenement, orchard, and garden called the "White House", and four crofts of land customary called King's and Welfield. Next week - "Did the priest live at the Chantry?".

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir, ---- A good example of Town Planning is the entrance to Lion Lane from the High Street. Here we have a garage shelter in the course of erection making a very, very narrow road. Two cars cannot pass, and from a pedestrian point of view they are already in hospital -- "Walker".

### LOCAL INSURANCE MEN LOBBY M.P.

Fourteen local members of the Guild of Insurance Officials lobbied Mr. E. Gardner Q.C., M.P., at the House of Commons last Thursday week. They had just attended a mass meeting at the Westminster Central Hall to bring attention to the fact that the Guild of Insurance Officials is not recognised by the insurance industry. Unfortunately Mr. Gardner could not be found in the House. After the lobby nearly three hundred members marched to three insurance firms in the City of London, and handed in a demand for recognition.

### OVER 650 SEE "FOLK PLAYERS".

Over 650 people saw the amateur group, the Billericay Folk Players, in their highly successful production of the comedy "Colombe", at the Archer Hall, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of last week.

The play is set in the world of the Paris Theatre, at the turn of the century. Leading roles were Colombe played by Joan Hiliary, Julian her husband, played by John Shippey, and Julian's mother Mme. Alexandrear, played by Maureen Pratt.

### OUTING FOR CHILDREN.

The Outwood Common Community & Tenants' Association are giving a free outing to the pantomine at Westcliffe to children living on the estate aged between 10 and 15.

### JUMBLE SALE.

Members of the Junior Section of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England raised £6, at a Jumble Sale held at the Recreation Rooms on last Saturday week.

\*\*\*\*\*  
STOP PRESS

## ROUND AND ABOUT by "WANDERER"

One often hears the word "Planning" in Billericay today. No doubt we will hear more of it in the coming year when the County Development Plan is formulated.

The question may be raised "Is there any real planning in Billericay now?". Planning which takes into account visual amenities trees, contour lines, position of site, effect on neighbouring properties, the effect on crowding on the railway, the provision of new bus services, the increased strain on the water, gas, and electricity services, the provision of telephones, the building of shops, community centres, and churches, the effect on education facilities, the need for recreational facilities etc. etc.

Have all these factors been taken into account in the development of Billericay up to now. The answer in most cases is "No". In many cases the policy of the Council has not been constant, and the development has been haphazard - a mixture of old and new, a mixture of houses and bungalows.

For example the Council refused planning permission for the erection of six semi-detached chalets in Tylers Avenue, an area of bungalow development, because of over-development of the site, and because it was "out of keeping" with the rest of the road. I am not debating the rights and wrongs of this. However, the Council have passed outline permission for a terraced row of houses, backing on to bungalows in Cromwell Avenue. The width of these new houses' gardens will be five paces, and the length five to ten paces. Is this constant policy? Is this good planning? Surely, it is haphazard?

If Billericay is not to become a haphazard, badly-serviced muddle, some radical changes in planning policy must be carried out quickly. Comprehensive development on suitable large sites, providing that it does not overstrain services, should be preferred to blobs here and there. And office development should definitely be preferred to industrial, which is out of keeping, and no help.