PARADE OF SHOPS FOR PERRY STREET?

Townsend & Partners Ltd (Hammersmith) are endeavouring to obtain planning permission for a parade of shops on the corner of Upland Road - Perry Street. The site at present contains an unoccupied house, outbuildings and grounds. The Local Planning Authority will only grant permission if it can be proved that there is a sufficient need for the proposed shopping amenities. Townsend & Partners have sent round a circular asking people that if they think there is the need for the amenities would they please notify Townsend & Partners. And does a parade of shops include a public house and dance hall? I wonder ———.

Townsend & Partners originally planned to build a public house and dance hall on the site. Part of the grounds of the house is being used for houses which are now under construction.

RATES UP? Is 5d to 20s 5d one of the highest in the Home Counties. Basildon U.D.C council have raised the local rate to 20s 5d. This together with the county rate rise of 5d is going to put a financial burden on some ratepayers. In new council houses the council are turfing the front lawn and supplying a building to be used as a shed! Yet some of the tenants households are earning altogether up to £20 a week! Ratepayers should only have to subsidise council tenants who earn less than £11 a week. Council houses were originally for the poor - but now I wonder. The council should recoup on office and labour staff wastage. Then they should stop spending huge amounts of money on highway development. True some roads - Lakeside, Hill House Drive, Horace Road - need repairing but some of the others could wait. The council needs a thorough overhaul of its rate of expenditure. A Billericay Ratepayers Association should be formed.

THE BIG FREEZE

The big freeze has ended. Although we have been having cold weather and snow for over a month the latest big freeze lasted only five days. As soon as snow had melted the snow started again. Our birdbath was frozen for the whole of the spell. Temperatures dropped to the 29 - 24 range most nights and there were also severe frosts. At Newlyn in Cornwall the sea froze over. The edges of the Lake in Lake Meadows were frozen and the water gradually went over the ice producing a strange effect. Despite this there was a lone fisherman wrapped up in mufferers fishing at a place where there was no ice. Trains and buses ran to time. One part of the pavement in the High Street was frozen snow and ice. After a 1" snow fall Wednesday night the weather turned milder (40° - 55 deg f). Conditions in other parts of the country were much worse than in Essex.

INSIDE

Round and About by "Wanderer" who discusses many things and items of interest.

Other Interesting Articles
"The Stream" a poem
ROUND AND ABOUT by 'Wanderer'
It's about time Billericay Town football club woke up. They have been playing in minor leagues for several years now. The formation of a Essex County League would help them but they should not wait for that - it might never be formed at all, they want action now. The London Leage and then the Eastern Counties League should be their aim. They could raise the attendance suitable for these leagues. Their ground needs better facilities for fans. They could at least make a small start.

There ought to be a few more interesting clubs and organisations formed in Billericay. A start in the right direction has been the forming of a Billericay Brass Band (see edition no. 2). Liven Billericay up a bit. Or are people too interested in the television?

May I draw attention to the awful street lighting amenities which Perry Street has. There is only a lamp every 3/4 mile approx. And the state of the road is shocking.

It's about time in this growing area in which we live that the council met more frequently. At least every two weeks. And when is there going to be a car park in reach of the High Street and shopping centre? No more moves have been made recently to solve this problem and the congestion on both sides of the High Street is awful.

By the way when are Buttbus County Primary School going to get their new classrooms. Work should have commenced last March but it is always "next month". A storeroom has been added but this should have waited until last. Meanwhile two classes of children have to go to special classes at Basildon daily by bus.

All for now, 'Wanderer'

THE WANDERER WELCOMES LETTERS.

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THE STREAM by W. Grant.
Through the green pastures as green as can be, through the green pastures the streams flow free, through the valleys down to the sea flow these streams merrily, they are murmuring in rain or sun, they are loved by everyone.

BILDERICAY OBSERVER ANNOUNCEMENT.

Back Issues.
We remind readers that back issues may be obtained by application to Wynford Grant, Back Numbers Dept, Billericay Observer.

Please send us letters about any aspect of this newspaper or any item in this newspaper or any local controversy which you have an opinion about. Good, interesting letters are welcome. Letters are specially welcome for the next edition entitled "How I would improve the Billericay Observer."

AIR RAID SIRENS TESTED.
The air raid sirens were tested in Billericay on Wednesday March 12th. The warning siren was tested at 8.25 p.m. The volume was satisfactory. The Civil Defence co-operated with the testing. The air - raid sirens were also tested at Brentwood and other parts of Essex.

FROGMEN TO USE LAKE MEADOWS.
Essex County Police frogman will use the lake in Lake Meadows for training. Conditions have been made to minimise interference to people fishing and boating. Lake Meadows has ideal conditions for training frogmen in silt, weeds and mud.

STOP PRESS.
LATEST CLASSIFIED ADVERT SERVICE. NEW, SPECIAL LEAFLET. NO OBLIGATION, PLEASE ASK FOR IT. APPLY EDITOR OR ADVERTISING MANAGER, BILLERICAY OBSERVER. CIRCULATION 14 7118.
COMPETITION

PRIZE: ANTIRRHINUM magic carpet FLOWER SEEDS (CUTHBERTS)

What you have to do:
Put the answers to the question below on a piece of paper and
send to Competitions Dept., Billericay Observer, I43, Perry Street
Billericay, Essex. Also put your name and address on the piece of
paper. FULL RULES BELOW QUESTIONS. BE SURE TO READ THEM.

QUESTIONS:
1. What is the official residence of the Chancellor of the
Exchequer?
2. What is the name of the capital of Australia?
3. Who is the present Minister of Defence?
4. What is the name of the County Town of Dorset?
5. Who wrote Oliver Twist?
6. Name five yellow summer flowers.
7. Name five countries (Groups of islands e.g. Fijian Islands included)
in the British Commonwealth or Empire (there are over 40)
8. What is the queen's official Scotch residence?

Rules:
1. YOU MAY look up the answers to question I & 4 but NOT to any
other questions.
2. Neatness and Writing is taken into consideration.
3. The editor's decision in all matters relating to the competition
is FINAL.
4. If there is a question you cannot answer it DOES NOT ruin your
chances of winning the prize. You still have a chance even with
three questions unanswered.

MORE LETTERS

letter continued.
my children have got measles, my dog has got the hump, my cat has got kittens and my hens have got p.u.b. Is this a record?

Yours Sincerely

Ed: I don't know if it is a record each year on education. If the socialists are in power then they are likely to spend more. If the Conservatives are in power down goes the money spent on education. Socialists like comprehensive schools, Conservatives on the whole do not, and etc., It is obvious that lots of things that go on locally are controlled by National Policy and that means national politics. Some would say too much too control is at national level, but that is another issue. Let us be sensible about these matters and not too parochial.

Yours Sincerely,
"NAOOG"
BILLEICAY OBSERVER,
143, Perry Street.
I hope you enjoy this edition of the Billericay Observer. As usual we aim to give you clear facts and interesting articles in this newspaper. We try to publish something of interest for everyone.

Yours Sincerely,
J. G. Grant
Editor.

AMERICAN CAR IN HIGH STREET!
An United States car with American-type number plates and emblems was parked in the High Street on Tuesday March 11th.

SPECIAL EDITION!
Watch out --- it will be out soon.
FREE GIFTS OF PACKETS OF FLOWER SEEDS
The aims of the Billericay Observer by the editor packed full of other interesting articles. The best edition yet.

TELETRIX HOUSE FOR SALE.
Teletrix House is up for sale. The agents are Douglas Allen & Co and Fredrick Taylor & Co.

JUMBLE SALE.
The 2nd Billericay Scout group held a Jumble Sale on Saturday March 15th at the Rising Sun Hall, Sun Street, Billericay. The sale opened at 2 p.m. and there was an admission fee of 2d. The sale was extremely successful; about 150 people came. The goods for sale were Shoes, Clothes, Gloves, etc., Books, Ironmongery, Leather Goods, Hardware and gramophone records. The proceeds went to the 2nd Billericay Scout group. Scouts collected the goods for sale from houses in the Billericay District.

CO-OP STAYS OPEN LONGER.
The Billericay branch of the London Cooperative Society will remain open longer from March 17th. The store will remain open until 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 6 p.m. on Fridays under the new scheme.

NURSERY FOR AUCTION.
There will be an auction and clearance sale of Lakeside Nurseries, Perry Street, Billericay Essex on March 26th at 11 a.m. Auctioneers are PROtheroe & Morris of E.C. 4, The auction will be held at the nurseries.

SNOW.
There were showers of snow and sleet late in the afternoon of March 7th and early in the morning of March 8th.

BILLERICAY OBSERVER
announcement.
Please send us letters on any issue in this paper or any aspect of it. Your opinion on local controversies etc.

BACK ISSUES
Back issues may be obtained by application to W. Grant, Back Numbers, Billericay Observer, 143 Perry Street.

IN THE GARDEN.
The terrible weather conditions in the past few weeks have prevented most people from doing anything in the garden. The soil has been frozen nightly making it hard to dig. There is good value for small financial outlay in flower seeds. Some 4 packets brought a mixture of beautiful colour to our garden last year. Buy a packet or two a week and you will have almost certainly some beautiful flowers in the summer.

Garden Advice...

on any aspect of gardening or problem. Your letter and our answer will appear in this column. Send letters for garden advice to GARDEN ADVICE DEPT, 143 PERRY STREET, BILLERICAY, ESSEX.

this service is available only to regular readers.
Sir,

I think your reporting on the question of the proposed public house was most biased and unfair. As a publican I would say to you what would you do if your living was threatened ......or if you were not even allowed to make an honest living? Why pick on the licensed trade?

Fair Play.

Ed; Blame the "Wanderer" which would not help me very much. I write the "Wanderer" articles; I am the Wanderer!

Or.....

Dear Sir,

I would like to say how much I enjoyed reading your last edition. It seems to me you were absolutely right in criticising the erection of a public house and dance hall in Perry Street. More power to your elbow say I.

Your Supporter.

WORRIED PET OWNER.

Dear Sir,

From the advice you gave me last week in your paper I thought my white mice would survive. They did not, and now my guinea pigs are also going green. Is it the Billericay air? Or is it these Atom bombs they keep letting off all over the place? Or is it just that I am feeding them wrong? Perhaps you would give me a proper answer this time and not be so facetious in your columns.

Yours Wonderingly.

Ed; It must be the A and "H" bombs as you say. If you don't want to have no guinea pigs you should call in a vet. Consulting our files we find that Continued Page Six.
Worried Pet Owner  

Ed; One thing that surprises me is that we have not had a letter from a Liberal with all this talk of a Liberal revival. You have put me on thin ice, if I take the Conservative point of view my Socialist readers will be annoyed and if I take the Socialist view the Conservative Readers he could also have dandelion leaves, hogweed, cabbage or lettuce. Though the advice in our files was from a guinea pig owner we advise you to check up before giving the guinea pig the food we have mentioned. We do not accept any responsibility if the guinea-pig dies, even in Perry Street at Mountnessing Road End. You probably have not seen either (as a matter of fact that’s not surprising they are not there) but would you know if they were there?

The "Wanderer,"

How far do you wander in your travels?

It strikes me you don't go very far. Have you seen the enormous skyscrapers they are building at Stock? Or the fantastic new cinema in Perry Street at Mountnessing Road End.

From Guine a Pigs to ...  

Dear Sir,

It is high time we had a Socialist Government in office in this country. Why don't your columns allow for political argument and discussion? Have not seen a single letter or reference in the editorial to political matters. What is happening in the world around us concerning Billericay you know. The testing or not of the "H" bomb — the carrying of nuclear weapons by flying over our heads and threatening our lives. The establishment of missile bases in this country — maybe in Essex. Don't you consider these matters are worthy of mention and discussion. Down with the Tories!

Yours Sincerely,
Labourite.

Ed; There are a few more political letters. I will comment at the end of them all.

Dear Sir,

When you consider all the trouble Mr Macmillan has had to put up with I consider it is remarkable that he is still so cheerful and able a leader. He deserves all the support we can give him. Vote Conservative I say and keep the right party in government.

Yours Sincerely,
True Blue.  

Ed; I very much doubt if a person not standing for one of the major political parties would obtain a place on the council.

Sir,

What would you advise me to do? My wife has got idle - its my children.