

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 5½d 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 economise 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 bird-bath 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 mufflers 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 on 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



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 League 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) X. 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 1/4 mile apx. 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 Buttsbury 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,

THE WANDERER WELCOMES LETTERS.

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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.

# BILLERICAY OBSERVER

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

### Back Issues.

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

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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 apx 8.5p.m and the all - clear 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 1/2 IS..



## COMPETITION

PRIZE : ANTIRRHINUM magic carpet FLOWER SEEDS (CUTHBERTS)

What you have to do:

Put the awnsers to the questions below on a piece of paper and send to Competitions Dept, Billericay Observer, 143, 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 offical 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 ten countries (Groups of islands e.g Fiji Isles included) in the British Commonwealth or Empire (there are over 40)
8. What is the queens OFFICAL scotish residence?

## Rules.

1. YOU MAY look up the awnsers to questipns 1 & 4 but NOT to any other questions.
2. Neatness and Writing is taken into consideration.
3. The editors decison in all matters relating to the competition is FINAL.
4. If there is a question you cannot awnser it DOES NOT ruin your chances of winning the prize. You still have a chance even with three questions unawnsered.

## MORE LETTERS

letter continued.

my children have got measels,  
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,

Me Next?

Ed; I don't know if it is a record each year on education. If the And whats p.u.b. socialists are in power then they are likely to spend more. If the Conservatives are in power down goes the moneyspent on education. Socilasts like comprehens- ive 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 parochi- al.

Yours Sincerely,

"NALGO"

BILLERICAY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
are trying to attract new members.  
Membership application forms are  
obtainable from a greengrocers in  
the High Street.

## BETTER:

A water supply for the Queens  
Park and Buckwyns is urgently  
needed. Basildon U.D. C have stated.

Dear Sir,

What a lot of twaddle some people  
talk. Politics affect your every  
day lives. The question of  
schools is not a local issue.

It is decided nationally how  
much money is going to be spent

~~There is no Opinion Poll~~  
this week.

## CLASSIFIED ADVT.

PERSONAL: What is the Biller-  
icay Observers aim and polic-  
Jim. It's going to be publis-  
hed in either edition 4 or 5  
Mary.



# EDITORIAL CORNER

BILLERICAY 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,  
W. 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 Shoewear, 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 Co-operative 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 demolition 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

SNOW.

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

## BILLERICAY OBSERVER

announcement.

Please send us letters on any item in this paper or any aspect of it. Your opinion on local controversies etc.

## BACK ISSUES

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Back issues may be obtained by application by regular reader 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 4d 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.



PAGE FIVE  
LETTER PAGE.

The editor thanks those who have sent in letters very much. The editor (Ed) comments at the end of each letter.

PUBLIC HOUSE AND  
PARADE OF SHOPS  
CAUSES GREAT  
COMMENT.

annoyed publican  
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Dear Sir,

As a small shopkeeper who has built his buisness up slowly over the years I say it is a disgrace that someone should be allowed to walk into Perry Street now that the extra number of houses and families living here has just been reflected in my buisness. improving. They would take all the cream and I should be right back where I was six years ago. It doesnt encourage a man to try hard to make a honest living I say. So please do all you can to prevent these shops being erected and count on my full support.

Yours Sincerely,  
"Small Shopkeeper"

Ed; there are two sides to a question.

Dear Sir,

If I as a representative of a large chain stores consider that Billerica would be better served by one of my excelent shops I see it is little of your buisness whether I open one or not. Let the customer be the judge.

Yours,

"Chain Stores Representiave"

Ed; It is our buisness to put the facts before the public. If I think I want to oppose or support the proposed shops I will without your interference but I agree with you that the customer should judge.

Dear Sir,

I have had a shop for some ten years now and I feel that I have worked hard for my living. If some other people want to I say why not? A good shopping centre in Perry Street would be a boon to the housewife. Don't deny individual liberty.

Yours Sincerely

Small Trader.

Ed; I say a butchers and a post office and nothing else. If a full shopping centre is introduced people will get just too lazy and then they wont have enough exercise.

Sir,

I think your reporting on the question of the proposed public house was most blassed and unfair. As a publican I would say to you what would you do if your living is 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 Billerica 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 awnser 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.



PAGE SIX.

Worried Pet Owner  
Editors Comments

Continued

Guniea Pigs should have  
Oats and Bran mixed in  
a dish (Oats SHOULD NOT  
be crushed) with some carrot  
he could also have dandelion  
leaves, hogweed, cabbage or  
lettuce. Though the advice

in our files was from a guniea  
pig owner we advise you to check  
up before giving the guniea pig  
the food we have mentioned. We  
do not accept any responsibility  
whatsoever if the guniea-pig dies.

From Guniea Pigs to ...

POLITICS

Dear Sir,

It is hightime we had a Socilast  
Government in office in this country.  
Why dont your columns allow for political  
argument and discussion? I have not seen  
a single letter or reference in the  
editorial to political matters. What is  
happening in the world around us conc-  
erning 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  
Macmillian 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.

POLITICS COMMENT

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 Socilast  
readers will be annoyed and if I take  
the Socilast view the Conservative Readers  
will be annoyed. What am I to do?

The "Wanderer",

How far do you wander in your travels?

It strikes me you don't go very far

What's going on in the country  
around Billericay? Have you seen the  
enormous skyscrapers they are building

at Stock? Or the fantastic new cin-  
ema in Perry Street at Mountness-  
ing 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?

Querulous stay at home.  
Ed; the "Wanderers" job is  
to comment not report.

Dear Sir,

Local Government should be  
kept free of politics. Why do  
candidates insist putting  
themselves forward as Cons-  
ervative, Socialist or

Liberal candidates. Surely  
they are first and foremost  
representing the interests  
of ratepayers and residents  
of the town. Street lighting  
and repairs, school places  
for children, improvements  
in sewage disposal, in  
refuse disposal. All these  
things and many more are  
nothing to do with politics.  
Why do we drag them in?

Yours Unpolitically

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 - it's my children

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