

BILLERICAY
HISTORY SERIES

No.5

PRICE 6d

A
2 in 1 booklet....

**BILLERICAY'S
MARKETS
AND
FAIRS
AND
THE STORY
OF
NORSEY WOOD**

by Wynford P. Grant.

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INTRODUCTION

The Billericay History Series.

The first booklet in the Billericay History Series - "Early Billericay" - was published in May 1962. At the time of writing, 1,350 copies have been sold. Since then three more booklets have been published - "The Mills of Billericay" (1,150 copies sold), a 2-in-1 booklet, "Billericay and the Mayflower and The Place Names of Billericay" (900 copies sold), and "The Inns of Billericay" (600 copies sold).

The object of this Series is to produce a number of inexpensive booklets about various aspects of the history of Billericay, thus stimulating interest in the town's past and present. This is the fifth booklet in the Series, and five more are planned. Material is also being gathered for use in a comprehensive book about the town. The Series also publishes the "Billericay and District Quarterly Historical Review", a quarterly magazine dealing with aspects of local history about which there is not sufficient material to write a booklet. Also included are notes on new discoveries and book reviews. "A Short History of Stock", which has sold nearly 800 copies, has also been published, and histories of other towns and villages near Billericay are planned.

This booklet.

I would like to thank the staff of the Essex Records Office, in particular Miss H. Greive and Miss N. Briggs, and the staff of the Chelmsford Borough Reference Library, for their invaluable assistance. Without it this book could never have been written.

Any constructive criticism or suggestions would be welcome.

PART I -

BILLERICAY'S MARKET AND FAIRS

THE MARKET AND FAIRS CHARTERS.

In 1253 the monks of the Abbey of Stratford Langthorne at Bow, who had a grange on the site of Grange Farm at Great Burstead, were granted the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair in the parish of Great Burstead. We do not know for certain, whether, in these early days, the market and fair were held at the ecclesiastical centre - Great Burstead - or at the main centre of population - Billericay. A second charter of 1468, however, definitely mentions Billericay, and it is quite probable that the market and fair were held here right from 1253. The charter of 1468 grants the right for a weekly market, and two annual fairs, one in August, on the day of St. Mary Magdalene, patron saint of Great Burstead, and the other in October, on the Decollation of Saint John, patron saint of what was then Billericay Chapel.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MARKET AND FAIRS IN LOCAL LIFE.

The weekly excursion to the market was the only relief the villagers had from their monotonous, often burdensome, existence. Here they could hear the latest news, exchange gossip, enjoy the bustle and excitement of the market, and sell their meagre produce in order to obtain money to purchase the bare necessities of life from the town's tradesmen. Such amenities as the smithy usually only existed in the market town.

The two annual fairs provided even more excitement. The most important was the Autumn fair, for here cattle were sold, to be killed and salted down for the Winter. Few cattle were kept through the Winter months, for the only available fodder crop was hay, so salt meat was the staple diet of most people, if they could afford it.

When Billericay was granted a market charter it was still only a village. A growing village, it is true, but still only a village. The market charter established it as the centre of a large region, stretching as far as the Thames, and including some twenty villages, large and small. The market provided the incentive for tradesmen and craftsmen to settle in the town. Once the market had initiated Billericay's growth, it expanded of its own accord.

Why was Billericay given a market charter? Well, in the first place, we can thank the monks of Great Burstead for their initiative and foresight. But why did Edward the Fourth confirm that Billericay was a suitable place for a market and fairs? Probably the main reason was that Billericay was an important route centre. In the 15th century the two most important routes passing through Billericay were the age-old route from Chelmsford via Billericay to Tilbury and across the Thames to Canterbury and Dover, and the now non-existent road from Maldon to Billericay and on to Tilbury. The town was also easily accessible from most of the villages of the surrounding district.

THE MARKET.

Records of very few country markets have survived, but at the Essex Records Office there are records for Billericay Market covering the first decade of the eighteenth century. These give us an excellent picture of the market as it was at that time.

The focal point of the market was the market house, which stood in the street at the junction of High Street and Chapel Street. This is dealt with more fully in the next section. Nearby was the market cross. In 1707 3s 6d was spent on "glewin and whitin the market cross." Also here was the pillory, no doubt a source of interest and amusement on market day. One unfortunate lady was sentenced to do penance in Billericay market "in her shift".

The market, held every Tuesday, was opened at ten o'clock by the tolling of the bell of St. John's Chapel, which we know as St. Mary Magdalene Church. Anybody who sold goods before this time was liable to be punished. Thus in 1651 John Stock of "Billerika" was accused of "buying a load of butter before 10 o'clock in ye morning."

The number of stalls varied considerably. In the Winter, when the roads were practically impassable, it could be as few as three. In the Summer, it could be as many as twenty. The majority of these were butchers or "gardinors" (greengrocers), but there were also edgetoolmen, gloves, lacemen, fishmongers (one Bigsby from Maldon), and a cutler. Less frequent visitors were pedlars, shoemakers, toy sellers, the "gingerbread man", orangemen, woostedmen, and stockinmen.

There was a precise scale of charges for stallholders, which is worth reproducing. These tolls were charged at each market.

Butchers	6d	Fishman	3d
Pedlars	4d	Gingerbread man	3d or 4d
Orangemen	4d	Glovesman	3d or 4d
Cutler	4d	Gardeners	2d
Lacemen	4d	Woostedman	2d
Toys man	4d	Stockinman	2d
Shoemaker	4d		

The following instructions were given for dealing with butchers - "6d a piece as many as stands in the shambles (a butchers' slaughter house). For any strange coumners, a tilted stall 4d." Things did not work so well in practice, however. In a "memorandum" the Market Clerk complained bitterly, "the cobby holders build shops and stalls outward over their shops at their doores and take in butchers." These stalls naturally took trade away from the shambles, a situation which "simply ought not to be." The Clerk added in a footnote; "They make their dunghalls in the market."

Other facilities were provided. "The market house chamber" cost £2 a year to rent. The charge for "a little room under the market house" was twelve shillings a year, but a standing by the well cost fourteen shillings. Paradoxically, a standing under the market house, unexposed to the weather, cost only six and eight a year. Perhaps the well was a meeting place, and therefore better for trade. The "salt bing" was hired out, and special facilities were provided for pattern makers, edgetoolmen, pedlars, and hardwaremen.

Such was Billericay Market two hundred and fifty years ago - prosperous and bustling. Let us now consider the story of the market house in more detail.

THE MARKET HOUSE.

The only view of the Billericay Market House known to exist is a rough sketch on a plan of Joseph Fishpoole's lands at Billericay, surveyed in 1681, and now in the Essex Records Office. At this date the market house was at the junction of High Street and Chapel Street, on approximately the site of the war memorial. The ground floor was open on all sides, the upper floor being supported by a series of arches. It is possible that there was a small room for the market clerk on the ground floor. "Standings" on the ground floor of the market house were let out yearly. "A little room under the market house" was also let out annually.

On the top floor was the "market house chamber", also let out annually for commercial purposes, and the school house, which accommodated the Billericay Grammar School, founded in 1685, but now defunct.

The old market house was probably demolished in the late 1780's, when what was then St. John's Chapel, but is now St. Mary Magdalene's Church, was rebuilt and enlarged. Part of the ground occupied by the market house was probably needed for the extension of the Chapel. The market cross was probably demolished about the same time.

It is an established fact that a new market house, which we now know as the old council chamber, was not built until 1830. What happened in the meantime? A market house was an essential for a successful market. Some time ago, I read the entries relating to Billericay in the old Essex directories, extremely useful and reliable sources for students of local history. The following entry in Pigot's directory of 1823-5 attracted my attention; "There is (in Billericay) a handsome, modern-built market house." Now the deeds of the present council chamber make it quite clear that this was not erected until 1830. Yet the entry in Pigot's directory suggested that there had been a market house on a different site between the demolition of the old one, and the erection of what came to be known as the Town Hall. A little later, I came across a series of entries in a manorial document which stated that "a house next the Crown Inn" was used as the market house from 1818 to 1830. The reference seemed to infer that the property had been erected in 1818, which tallies with Pigot's "modern built" market house. It also happens that the 1830 market house was erected "next the Crown", which was then on the site now occupied by Clarke's the butchers. If the 1830 market house replaced that of 1818, which seems quite likely, although it is by no means certain, then why should such a recently-erected, "handsome" property be demolished? Probably a more imposing edifice than a "house" was required to arrest the decline of Billericay Market which was then taking place. Possibly, the 1818 building was not large enough, and a more spacious building was required. Nobody could deny that the 1830 market house is imposing and spacious.

Of course, this does not solve the problem of what was used as a market house in the first twenty years of the 19th century. Despite a fairly exhaustive examination of relative manorial documents of the period, no information has been forthcoming. The rather unhappy story of the 1830 market house or "town hall" deserves a section of its own. First, however, we must consider the Billericay fairs in more detail.

THE FAIRS.

Billericay's two fairs were held on August 2nd and October 7th in the wide High Street. As was mentioned earlier, the October fair was the more important, for here cattle were sold off before the Winter.

Fortunately, the fair toll book from 1804 to 1814 has survived, and is now in the Essex Records Office at Chelmsford.

In 1805, at the August fair, there were twelve gingerbread men, a cutler (a Charles Clementsman from Birmingham), two earthenware stalls, five fruiterers, two toy stalls, a show, a swing, and a fish stall. Only two of the stallholders came from Billericay, the rest coming from all over Essex, from London, or even further afield - the earthenware sellers from Staffordshire or the cutler from Birmingham.

At the October fair there were thirty-nine stalls, as compared with twenty-five in August. The October fair included four shows, seven fish stalls, nine fruiterers, eleven gingerbread men, one hatter, four milliners, one earthenware stall, one book stall, and one toy stall. It was possible to purchase things at the fairs that were not on sale at the weekly markets.

The August fair of 1806 had a gambler from London, but this time there were only three gingerbread stalls, compared with ten fruiterers. The October fair featured a cheesemonger from Herongate. There were twelve gingerbread stalls and eight toy stalls, but only three fruiterers.

In August 1807, gingerbread stalls were once again most popular - there were ten in all. A trinkets stall was a new addition. In October there was a clothier from London, and there were more of the ever-popular gingerbread stalls than anything else.

August 1808 saw two gamblers, and in October somebody selling glass. There were sixteen gingerbread stalls. In August 1809 there were again sixteen gingerbread stalls, but in October there were 24! In August 1810 there were 46 stalls including 26 gingerbread men, three box carriers, a "kibbun stall", a glover, a law dealer, a house dealer, and three ribbon dealers. In October a lace stall, a picture stall, a boat, and a roundabout were new features. In October 1811 there were five showmen, including one from Manchester. In August 1812 there is the mysterious entry, "two Jews 4d." In October 1814, 19 gingerbread stalls were the main feature of Billericay Fair.

Unfortunately, but somewhat inevitably, the fairs attracted undesirables, as is evidenced by the "Chelmsford Chronicle" of October 10th, 1777. An item states; "On Tuesday last a gentleman's servant from Hornchurch, being sent to Billericay Fair to buy some cattle, was decoyed by some sharpers into the White Hart of that town, where they got him to cards and won £80 of him; he likewise lost a banknote of £20 which he thinks the sharpers picked out of his pocket, and immediately made off towards London. Cattle sold remarkably dear at the above fair."

For the most part however, the fairs were somewhere where the ordinary people could obtain innocent amusement at relatively little cost. They also performed an important commercial function, providing a place where cattle and horses could be bought and sold.

DAYS OF DECLINE.

The Universal British Directory says in 1793 of Billericay Market; "A considerable market, especially for corn." Pigot's edition of 1825-7 states; "It (the market) was once of considerable note, but has fallen off in late years; the trade being transferred to Romford and Chelmsford."

Billericay Market, although important, was never on a par with those at Chelmsford and Romford. But it kept its trade, because the deplorable roads meant that people in the Billericay area could not travel to Romford or Chelmsford and back in one day. The coming of the turnpikes changed all this, and much of the trade of Billericay market went to Chelmsford or Romford, now they were more easily accessible.

The decline of Billericay from a town of considerable note to a place little more than a large village, has often been traced back to the by-passing of the town by the railways. In my opinion, it started with the development of the turnpikes, and the consequent decline of the market. The market had raised Billericay to the status of a town, and the prosperity of the town was dependent to a large extent on the prosperity of the market. When the town's market declined, the town declined with it.

THE NEW MARKET HOUSE OR TOWN HALL.

It was possibly as an attempt to arrest this decline by providing facilities comparable with those provided at Chelmsford or Romford that the new market house or town hall was erected in 1830. An impressive stone edifice, it still adorns the High Street, until recently used as a council chamber by Basildon Council, and also as offices by the Registrar of Births and Deaths and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Erected at a cost of £800, the building served as a market house and corn exchange - corn had replaced cattle as the predominant feature of Billericay Market - provided accommodation for the Billericay Grammar School, and incorporated "assembly rooms", which became the social centre of the town.

When the building was put up for sale in 1902 (it was acquired by Essex County Council, who still own it, for use as Billericay's police station), the following description of its facilities was given in its sale catalogue, and this is worth reproducing, as the building of 1902 differed little from that of 1830.

"Town Hall, Billericay. The hall is substantially built of red brick and slated and affords the following accommodation:-

Basement - good, cool and dry cellerage.

Ground Floor - a lofty schoolroom approached from the street, Magistrates' Room in the rear with stone paved hall, prisoner's cell, airing yard, coal place, side entrance communicating with the street, and a small back yard.

First Floor - Approached by a wide staircase. The Assembly Room, capable of seating 190 persons, with front balcony (now disappeared), two Ante Rooms, and lavatory.

The County Magistrates have the use of the Assembly Room for the purpose of holding the bi-monthly petty sessions for the petty sessional division, comprised with 15 adjoining parishes, also of the ante-rooms on ground and upper floor, and the cell and airing yard, paying the annual rent of £25.

The Governors of the endowed Grammar School occupy the school room on the ground floor, and have the use of a small back yard, paying the annual rent of £10. The Magistrates Room let to the Lighting Inspectors at 15/-; Billericay Cricket Club at 30/-; Guardians 52/- - £4-17-0d. The cellars, Mr. Boughtwood, £1. Piece of land, 15/-.

The casual lettings of the assembly and other rooms for sales by auction, entertainments, lectures, balls, and other purposes - average income (taking last six years) - £28-17-1d."

Unfortunately the market house was not such a success, at least financially, as its sponsors had envisaged. In 1832 £170 had to be raised to pay off debts and bills, and when the committee of ten members met on 26th April 1836 they were told that £770 was owing to the mortgagor, Mr. Thomas Chalk. Mr. Chalk, who wanted his money, was threatening to sell the market house, as he was entitled to do under the terms of the mortgage, but the committee asked him to wait until the second Monday in July for his money. Mr. Chalk had to wait a little longer. Finally, the committee recognised their inability to raise the money, and on 19th May 1840 the building was auctioned to Mr. William Carter of Billericay for £865.

Finally, in 1862 the property was purchased by the Billericay Town Hall Company from Mr. George Shaw for the sum of £493-10-6d, far less than it cost to build. As I have already mentioned, the property was finally disposed of to the Essex County Council in 1902, after the market had closed.

THE END OF THE MARKET AND FAIRS.

Directories of the latter half of the 19th century refer to Billericay as a "decayed market town", and there is no doubt that the market and fairs had gone into a steady decline, until they were comparatively insignificant affairs. Towards the end of the 19th century the fairs were removed from the High Street to the site now occupied by the police station.

In the last few years of the 19th century, a movement was initiated by the then Vicar, a Reverend Darby, to close the market and fairs on the grounds that they were no longer justified, and were merely an excuse for rowdyism. There was probably some justification for the first argument, but whether there was any for the second is difficult to say. The Reverend Darby was a stern and strict Victorian and he may have regarded any slightly indecorous behaviour as "rowdyism". Probably the fairs were centres of rowdyism, but it is doubtful whether this was true of the markets. However, the Reverend Darby was successful, and in common with many other small country towns, the Billericay markets and fairs were closed. But the story does not end there.

ATTEMPTS AT REVIVAL.

Two attempts were made to revive Billericay Market. One was reasonably successful, the other less so.

In the early 1920's an attempt was made to re-start Billericay Market in the yard at the back of the "Chequers". It was not a success, and closed within a few months of opening.

A more successful private market was run for many years between the wars on a site at the corner of Norsey Road and Crown Road. On the outbreak of war in 1939, however, it was closed, and it remained as a derelict eyesore until 1954, when it was donated to the town by an anonymous lady, and later laid out as a public garden by Basildon Council to commemorate the Festival of Britain. The views which can be obtained from this garden are really splendid.

Billericay's market and fairs played an important part in shaping the history of the town. For some 650 years the market and fairs fulfilled an essential service in local life, and brought prosperity to Billericay. They have now faded from memory. But the part they played in Billericay's history should never be forgotten

PART 2 -

THE STORY OF NORSEY WOOD.

Norsey Wood occupies an area of some 160 acres in the north-eastern corner of the Parish of Billericay. The highest part of the Wood is 300 feet above sea level, but in the southern portion a tributary of the Crouch has eroded a steep valley. The timber is chiefly oak and hornbeam, with a percentage of chestnut, birch, and larch.

However, Norsey Wood is of far more interest and significance than an ordinary wood. Indeed its interest is national - the preservation of Norsey Wood Camp (constituting the greater part of the wood) is scheduled by the Ministry of Works as in the national interest. It is an area of great natural beauty, one of the most interesting historical and archaeological areas within the county, and a last stronghold of the wild life that once teemed throughout the county, but is being ruthlessly eliminated by the indiscriminate destruction of hedgerows and coppices. But more important it is one of the few parts of Billericay that has remained virtually intact throughout the centuries, a precious heritage that the people of Billericay have always fought to preserve.

The name is first recorded in 1250, when it was known as Nossesheye. In 1351 it was Nossessheygh, and by 1768 it had become Nossy Wood. The second element in the name evolves from "hoeg", an enclosure, whilst the first element ("Nosses") is a personal name.

But the story of Norsey Woods starts long before the 13th century. It begins long before recorded history, in the mists of antiquity. At one time there were, in the Wood, two low tumuli or burial mounds. There is evidence that these were in use from Bronze Age times. We do not know where these Bronze Age inhabitants of Billericay lived - only the sites of their graves.

Iron Age Burial Urns have also been discovered in the Wood, but there is evidence that the Trinovantes, who then inhabited this corner of Essex, used the Wood for purposes other than burying their dead. When the working of the Wood for gravel was commenced in 1858, primitive smelting furnaces were discovered, and much British pottery has been found. It would appear that the Wood was used by the Trinovantes as an "industrial area" for smelting and the production of pottery.

When the Romans came to the Billericay area, it would appear that they continued to use the Wood for smelting and pottery production, after making suitable improvements, and it would also appear that this use continued long into the Roman era. Among the coins that have been found in the Wood are those of Germanicus, Nero, Trajan, Hadrian, Licinius, Constantine, Helena, and Arcadius, and Roman burials have also been found.

Until quite recently, the Wood was completely surrounded by a bank five to six feet high, enclosed by a ditch. It has been suggested that this was constructed by the rebels involved in the Battle of Billericay of 1381 (of which more later) as a defensive earthwork. However its height, its powers of endurance, and its considerable length, all seem to indicate something more than a defence erected by peasants with little time at their disposal and with no military education. Also the presence of "hoeg", indicating an enclosure, in the name of the Wood in 1250 would seem to hint that the earthwork was there before 1381.

Probably the earthwork was originally erected in Roman times or even earlier, although repaired at the time of the Peasants Revolt. It has been suggested that Norsey Wood was used as a military station of the Ninth Legion, and this seems to be quite a reasonable assumption to me. Certainly, before the development of artillery, Norsey Wood offered special advantages as a defensive position. It gave a commanding view of the surrounding plain, which one could observe without being observed by a potential enemy. The steep and boggy slopes to the south could be easily defended, whilst to the north the enemy would have to advance over a (then) exposed and relatively flat plain.

The problem of the encircling earthwork may never be satisfactorily solved. Indeed the Wood has many mysteries which have confounded generation after generation of archaeologists. For example, what was the purpose of the mysterious "Danepit", a shallow pit roughly round in shape, from three to six feet deep, and about twenty yards in diameter? It is not even possible to guess.

After the departure of the Romans, Norsey Wood slips into oblivion, until it sets the stage for one of the most dramatic events of Billericay's history.

The story of the Peasants Revolt is well known - the resentment against the poll tax, the march on London, the murder of Wat Tyler at Mile End. After Richard had broken his promises, "a new multitude" of Essex rebels assembled at Billericay. Here they were pursued by an army led by Sir Thomas of Woodstock and Sir Thomas Percy. The rebels fled into Norsey Woods, improved the fortifications and attempted to barricade the more vulnerable points with carts. However, these ignorant and poorly armed peasants were no match for a trained army, and the end of the day saw the Wood strewn with the corpses of 500 rebels. The remnants were pursued towards Colchester and Sudbury, many being killed or captured. Many relics of the battle were dug up in the Wood in the 19th century.

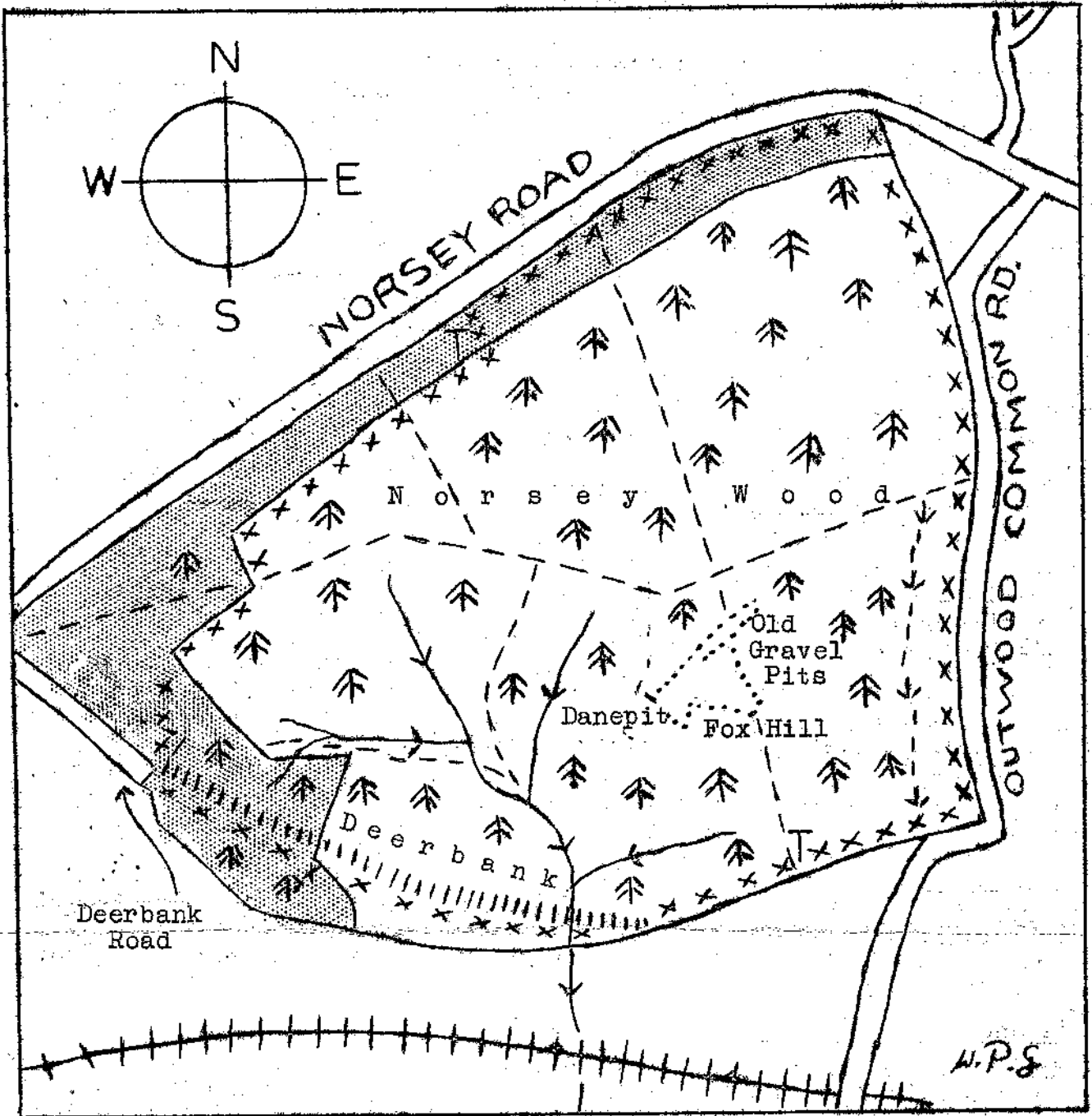
The Wood once more faded from history, and was later acquired by the Petre family of Ingatestone Hall. In the latter part of the 19th century it was dug for gravel, and between the wars the strip along Norsey Road was sold for building. The Wood is for the main part protected by a Tree Preservation Order, and is part of a proposed extension to the Metropolitan Green Belt.

During the past few years Norsey Wood has been in the news once more. There is an increasing body of opinion (supported by the Essex Naturalists Trust and the Billericay Residents Association) which considers that the Wood should be purchased by the Essex County Council as an area of regional interest, partly as a nature reserve, and partly as a public "open space". A proposal to erect a water tower in the Wood provoked considerable public indignation. Fortunately, the tower was built elsewhere.

I am one of those who would like to see the Wood acquired by the County Council, possibly with help from the Urban District Council. There are several rare plants and insects, and the Wood offers a splendid sanctuary for many rare species of plants and birds. The historical and archaeological interest of the Wood is immense; its natural beauty considerable. In addition, Billericay is growing rapidly and needs a "lung" apart from Lake Meadows. Let us hope that this unique area is purchased to be preserved for the benefit of all for all time.

Footnote:- The singular "Norsey Wood" instead of the more common Norsey Woods has been used throughout, since it does consist of one area of woodland. The singular form is used on the O.S. maps.

SKETCH MAP OF NORSEY WOOD



Approximate scale only.

KEY


The area shaded thus [shaded area] was formerly part of the Wood, but is now occupied by houses and gardens. Much of this, especially in the Deerbank Road area is, however, still woodland.


XXX - Boundary of Norsey Wood Camp as defined by Ministry of Works. (Listed as ancient monument of national interest).

||||| - Earthwork.

----- - Paths and tracks.

T - Site of Tumulus

 - Streams, arrows showing direction of flow.

 - Showing line of avenue cut through wood in connection with Buttsbury High Level Sewerage Scheme.

++++ British Railways, London-Southend Victoria line.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF THE BILLERICAY
HISTORY SERIES.

"Early Billericay" (B.H.S.No.1), Price 6d.

The first booklet in the Billericay History Series tells the story of Billericay from the Stone Age to the Roman times. Also included is a map of Roman Billericay. First published in May 1962, total sales are now nearly 1,400 copies.

"The Mills of Billericay" (B.H.S.No.2), Price 6d.

This tells the stories of the windmills and watermills of the Billericay area, as well as explaining how a mill works, and also offers a possible explanation of the "Perry Street mill mystery". Also included is a short account of the life of the remarkable 18th century Billericay eccentric and miller, Thomas Wood. Most noted for his rigorous slimming diet (he once weighed over twenty stones), Wood's interests ranged from pigs to bees, and fireworks to flowers. Over 1,100 copies have been sold.

"Billericay and the Mayflower" and "The Place Names of Billericay", (B.H.S.No.3), Price 6d. (2-in-1 booklet)

Billericay is probably best known for its association with the "Mayflower", and as well as telling the story of the Billericay pilgrim fathers, this booklet traces Billericay's long Puritan tradition, including the Billericay martyrs and the foundation of Billerica, U.S.A. The second section suggests an origin for the name "Billericay", and explains the evolution of the interesting place, farm, and street names of the Billericay area. 900 sold.

"The Inns of Billericay" (B.H.S.No.4), Price 9d. (Supplement 6d)

This booklet traces the development of innkeeping in the Billericay area, with particular reference to the coaching era, and contains short histories of forty inns, past and present, of Billericay. The supplement contains more detailed information. 620 sold.

"A Billericay Bibliography" (Special Publications No.1), Price 6d.

Contains details of over 150 books and articles about Billericay arranged in "quick reference" form, and a short biography section. Limited print only.

"A Short History of Stock", Price 6d.

This charming village has captured the hearts of many, and many have expressed delight at Wynford Grant's concise and lively history. The first section outlines the village's history; the second tells the story of its historic buildings. 775 sold.

1963-4 Billericay Reference Book, Price 9d.

Excellent value with over a hundred handy addresses and telephone numbers, a short history of Billericay, and a complete guide to local organisations. 500 sold.

"The Billericay & District Quarterly Historical Review".

Annual postal subscription: 3/-. Single copies: 6d each.

To date 3 issues of this historical review have been published. Among the articles have been "When Billericay Was a Barracks Town", "The L-32 Zeppelin Crash", "Life in Georgian Billericay", "Pre-Roman Stock", "Walks Around The Countryside", "The Church In The Fields - St. Mary's at Ramsden Crays", "Little Burstead Church", "Place and Street Name Problems" and many other features.

Copies of all the above publications may be obtained from:-

W.P.Grant,
Billericay History Series,
143 Perry Street,
Billericay, Essex.

Postage should be enclosed on the basis of 3d for the first copy of a 6d book and 4½d for the first copy of a 9d book, and then 1½d for each further copy.