

“Those were the days”



A proud moment for Mr William Cowling as he stands by the Cottis bread van which won first prize in the trade section of Billericay Carnival in 1930.

BILLERICAY pensioner. Mr William Cowling, fondly recalls the 27 years that he worked for bakery Cottis and Sons.

The closure of the firm last October after 84 years in the town stirred a whole host of memories for Mr Cowling, now aged 78.

Those memories are of the hard work as well as the good times he spent at the bakery, where he began work in 1925 delivering bread to the people of Billericay.

Every day Mr Cowling trudged more than three miles around Billericay's unmade streets, hauling the firm's delivery cart.

It was a 12-hour working day for Mr Cowling which began at 6.30am, for which he was paid about £2 a week.

And he still remembers the prices of items which he sold from the Cottis delivery van — threepence and three farthings (about 2p in today's money) for a loaf weighing two pounds, four rolls could be bought for threepence, 16 hot cross buns for a shilling, and a three pound bag of flour for sevenpence ha'penny.

“Those were the days,” said Mr Cowling, of Langham Crescent, who has lived all his life in Billericay, and in later years was caretaker at the town's police station.

“I just don't know where the years have gone,” he recalled.



Mr William Cowling (right) pictured in 1927 with the delivery cart he hauled around Billericay.



This photograph of Cottis bakery shop was taken in 1921 when the building was double-fronted. It was originally a 17th century building, timber framed and weatherboarded. In the 19th century the front was bricked over. The bay window shop shown here was on the north side of the building. The picture was taken just before Christmas with Christmas cakes and a large windmill made for the festive season. In 1922 the wall between the shop and the tea room was removed. The man standing at the door with the bag of yeast is one of the bakery employees.

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ALSO WEEKEND SPECIAL

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best wishes
Eddie and Ros"*

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SAUSAGE ROLLS, DOUGHNUTS,
BRIDIES SCOTTISH ROLLS, ETC.

**WATCH OUT FOR OUR
OPENING SPECIALS
ALSO WEEKEND SPECIAL**

*We look forward to your valued custom
and our aim is to please*

**21 HIGH STREET
BILLERICAY
Tel: Billericay 3699
ORDERS TAKEN**

EXCITING NEWS FOR EVERYONE IN BILLERICAY

*To find out
what it is
turn to page 8!*

"ED" THE BREAD



**21 HIGH STREET
BILLERICAY
Tel: Billericay 3699**



Husband and wife team Eddie and Ros Brannan opened Billericay's newest family business on Monday. Bakery "Ed the Bread" opened in High Street in premises formerly occupied by Christine

and the Gift Shop. Glasgow-born Mr Brannan is specialising in Scottish products, plus traditionally baked bread and a range of cakes, pastries and doughnuts.

It's the aroma that gets you . . .



Ed's bread is 'old-fashioned'

IT'S the aroma that gets you first. That taste bud-tickling scent of bread, fresh-baked.

You may have to wait a minute or two because although the service is swift and friendly, many other Billericay shoppers are drawn to sample Ed the Bread's baking.

Customers fill the shop with their request for a bloomer or a farmhouse, split tin, Scottish rolls, Scots recipes are a speciality, or French sticks.

Ed only opened three weeks ago, a stocky Scotsman with 20 years of experience in the bakery trade.

Eddie Brannan and his wife, Ros, settled on Billericay for their new venture when they came back from Australia after four years as owners of two bakers' shops in Perth.

They think they made a wise choice. Business so far proves it.

Dad and another baker.

It may be up-to-minute equipment. But the recipe used are traditional ones — old-fashioned ones that produce bread that won't turn green in the tin. That's an experience every family can do without.

Ros Brennan has done her won trials in her own bread bin . . . "I've kept our 'old-fashioned' bread there and found it's still soft and edible after a week."

Ros' job is out front among the wicker trays and baskets of cakes and loaves, with her two full-



Ros Brennan.

time and four part-time assistants.

SMILE

"Caring personal service means a lot to our customers. We like to get to know them . . . about their preferences, family happenings, their likes and dislikes. A smile and a friendly attitude can make all the difference."

Ros insists: "If someone buys something, isn't pleased but just does return, it's bad. If there are any complaints, I want to hear and do something about it."

Good luck!

WHEN a family bakery's lease expired and its owner was forced to close recently, the Brannans

were given an unexpected helping hand. Mr Ray Cottis (pictured above congratulating

Eddie Brannan) didn't want to close a business that had served Billericay well for 90 years. But when protests failed and Cottis' shop disappeared, Mr Cottis threw his energies into helping the Brannan family.

HELPFUL

Ros Brannan praises him: "Mr Cottis has encouraged and advised us. We've taken on one of his qualified bakers and practically all his assistants."

"He's typical of what we've seen so far of the people of Billericay — friendly and helpful."

FAMILY

It's a family affair. With the Brannans are their sons Dennis, who's 24, and 17-year-old Eddie Jnr. Both work in the spotless stainless steel and enamel "business end" with their

Coffee lounge plans

SHOPPERS who want to rest their feet and have a natter over a coffee may be able to do so soon in the Tudor Lounge.

Mr and Mrs Brannan have already chosen the name for the coffee lounge they hope to open in a few months' time, downstairs at their new shop.

Served in the lounge will be good from the bakery — fruit buns, all kinds cakes.

And if you want a celebration cake, the Bread takes orders for any special occasion or festival.

**DON'T LET THE
CLOCK BEAT YOU!**

**ORDER YOUR
CHRISTMAS
CAKES
EARLY**

**21 HIGH STREET
BILLERICAY
Tel: Billericay 3699**

**"ED" THE
BREAD**

PLANS with Basildon Council:
At Unit B1, Radford Business Centre, Radford Way, Billericay, loading bay and canopy; 21 High Street, Billericay, part change of use to cafeteria; 32 Hillhouse Drive, Billericay, side-rear extension; Mundels Farm, Wash Road, Laindon, removal of agricultural user occupancy condition (condition No. 3T/BAS/570/959/68); 225 Perry Street, Billericay, detached chalet; Hennakins Farm, Recreation Ground, Linda Gardens, Billericay, cricket pavilion; 2 Home Meadows, Billericay, two-storey side extension; 14 Station Road, Billericay, side extension; 5 Quilters Close, Basildon, single-storey front extension; 114 Butneys, Basildon, detached garage.

**BRENTWOOD, HUTTON
AND BILLERICAY
LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH
FUND**

The Hair and Beauty evening by Mr Scissors raised £590. Thanks to Mrs Shuttlewood and all concerned. There are 116 members in the 200 Club, winners Mr B. Smith with £50 and T. R. Hicks, N. Lawley, Miss P. Smith and Mrs D. Clow win £5. Bazaar raffle prizes: 1, 235; 2, Emily Crozier; 3, M. Adams; 4, 197; 5, Mr Why-mark; 6, Mrs D. Hodgson; 7, 79; 8, Pat Payne; 9, Rog; 10, Mrs Crook. The Christmas cake was donated by Ed the Bread and won by Billericay Wine Bar. Mrs J. Stepany has donated £50 in memory of her husband and £10 from two friends of Mrs A. Simmonds. Other donations from Mr and Mrs Save £5 and Mr and Mrs Watts, £35. Mr and Mrs Sawley have sold £950.44-worth of stamps this year. Further donations were from: Mrs E. Cullingford £34.42; Brentwood a Beckett Rotary Club, £500 from the fun run; Mrs P. Osyton, £90.50 from the fun run; Mr R. Copley £10; from the youth of the parish of the Holy Redeemer, Billericay £50; Mrs Pearce £22.

● Billericay's Ed the Bread bakery in the High Street has won planning permission to open a cafe in the basement of the shop.

future events
and Lawrence
January 31 and
and the
on Decem-
hard Hughes
cheque for
£1,000 from

**"ED"
THE
BREAD**

**SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are pleased to announce our 1st Anniversary on Tuesday, 18th February. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for the past year's custom.

COMING SOON!

THE OPENING OF OUR DOWNSTAIRS
"Tudor Coffee Lounge"

IN MID-FEBRUARY
which will seat approximately 32 people

**21 HIGH STREET
BILLERICAY
Tel: Billericay 3699**

ORDERS TAKEN

**"ED"
THE
BREAD**

**ANNOUNCING
THE
GRAND OPENING
OF OUR
Tudor Coffee Lounge
ON THE
21st FEBRUARY, at 9.00am**

There is seating for 32 people and we will be serving tea, coffee, sandwiches, snacks and a wide selection of meals.

**OPEN
9am-4pm**

**21 HIGH STREET
BILLERICAY
Tel: Billericay 3699**

ORDERS TAKEN

The Tudor Coffee Lounge



FEB
26



MAR
1

'Goodies' fresh from the bakery

WITH husband Ed the Bread upstairs, Ros Brannan will never run short of fresh loaves and cakes at the Tudor Coffee Lounge.

To the sandwiches and bakery-fresh cakes available, she'll add her own hot snacks, pies, quiches, gateaux and Pavlovas.

As its name suggests, the coffee lounge has a 'Tudor' feel — beamed white walls, warm red carpeting and lamps.

TRANSFORMATION . . . Billericay's new coffee lounge, above, downstairs at Ed the Bread. Three days before (picture, left) it was panic stations.

Bakers raid

A daylight thief sneaked into the back of Ed The Bread bakers in High Street, Billericay, and stole a purse with £30, a building society book and cheque book from a bag.

Purse snatched

A purse with £30, a building society book and cheque book were stolen from a bag in Ed the Bread bakers, Billericay High Street.

The show goes on . . . just!

IT'S no laughing matter when vital equipment is missing, on the eve of opening a new business.

That's what happened early last week to Ed and Ros Brannan at the new Tudor Coffee Lounge in Billericay High Street.

They'd worked all weekend, rough-casting walls, overseeing electrical work and furniture deliveries . . . all they needed for opening were the servery fittings.

A major hitch occurred. But the Brannans were determined to open and with mid-week midnight oil-burning, open they did — on Saturday (March 1).

NOW OPEN

OUR

Tudor Coffee Lounge

COFFEE — SNACKS — LUNCHES

**"ED"
THE
BREAD**



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**WE'RE THE COFFEE
YOU'RE THE CREAM**

*Good luck to
"Ed the Bread" on
the opening of
the Coffee Lounge*

AT LAST!

You can sit and relax and enjoy a cup of coffee and a snack in our **TUDOR COFFEE LOUNGE**, or if you'd prefer we have a wide range of meals to fill that gap.

Call in now and sample the warm, friendly atmosphere that is all part of the service, you're sure to find something to take your fancy.

**"ED"
THE
BREAD**



**21 HIGH STREET
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**Club uses
its loaf**

BUN lovers will be able to rise above temptation and work off their excesses when a health club opens over a baker's shop.

Basilston planners have approved a change of use for the first floor of the former Co-op Assembly Rooms, over a hairdressers and baker's in Billericay High Street.

The council's head of planning services, Mr Ray Stamp, said the health club was expected to generate fewer cars than when the building housed the meeting hall.



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all the best for the future*

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WISH

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their new Tudor Coffee Lounge*
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We are pleased to have been involved in the new coffee lounge and wish it every success.



Eddie Brannan

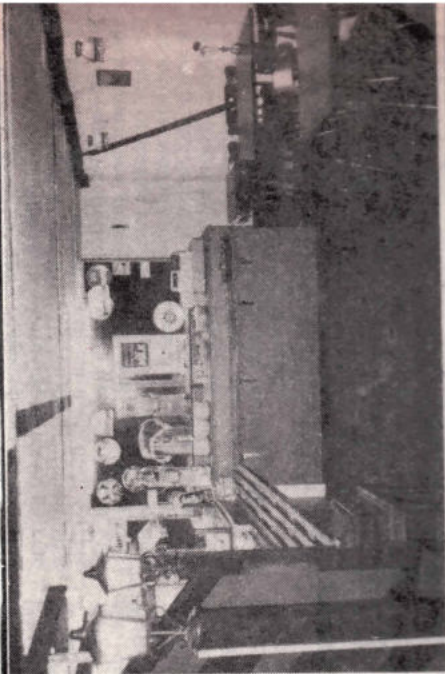
Thirty-four can sit comfortably at refectory tables after serving themselves with Ros' assistance. Flowers on the tables and in a feature alcove add to the atmosphere. What better, in current cold weather, than something warming like curry and rice, shepherd's pie or soup. And in the summer, fresh cream 'goodies' from the cold shelf. Initially, Mrs Brannan intends to open from 9am to 4pm but will be governed by demand as time goes on.

She says, "Eddie and I have been planning this for a year, ever since we opened the shop upstairs. We're convinced there is a need in Billericay for a coffee shop where people can sit in pleasant surroundings, have a snack and a chat.

"People have been marvellous. We've had phone calls and people dropping in to congratulate us on giving them something they want. Now it's open after a few hiccups, we hope local people will support us as they have done with our Ed the Bread venture."



Ros Brannan.



THE days when a trip to the shops was a carefree, leisurely affair are long gone, and it would seem that today's shoppers do not have time for anything but the rush and tear through the supermarket, into the car park and home again. What an oasis in the desert of shopping trolleys the new Tudor Coffee Lounge at the premises of ED THE BREAD has turned out to be.

With its beamed white walls, red carpeting and lamps and long refectory tables, the Tudor Coffee Lounge positively beckons the tired shopper inside to relax, sit down, and enjoy the home cooked fare and delicious coffee, and even maybe to spend time chatting and forgetting their day-to-day cares.

Should you feel in need of a meal of more substance, then the Tudor will not disappoint. As well as freshly baked bread and cakes, ROS BRANNAN prepares her own hot snacks, quiches, pies and gateaux.

And whatever the temperature outside the Tudor can provide the complete antidote. For those cold blustery days how about shepherd's pie, soup or curry and rice, or if ever the summer does come let us look forward to fresh cream 'goodies' from the cold shelf.

The Tudor Coffee Lounge is already beginning to gain a reputation for good food and a convivial atmosphere, and should demand arise the opening hours will be lengthened from the present 9am-4pm.

So we now know why shopping in Billericay takes longer than it used to, people are catching on and so is the Tudor Coffee Lounge.

ALLEN

ELECTRICAL SERVICES



THE SPECIALISTS

We are happy to have undertaken work for the new

Tudor Coffee Lounge

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SHOPPING IN BILLERICAY?

THEN WHY NOT CALL IN TO OUR

Tudor Coffee Lounge

and relax in a friendly atmosphere with a cup of delicious fresh ground coffee and a cake



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BILLERICAY

3699



