



# Billericay Town Crier

July 2015

[www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

@BillericayTC

## FESTIVAL GARDENS



*Skippers Maintenance team hard at work*

Over the past two years we have invested time, effort and resource in improving this oasis of beauty and serenity in Crown Road.

Donations have seen the terracing of the flowerbeds realised and we have recently renovated the two flights of steps using the original material making them secure for the future. These now look fine and blend in well with the garden.

We are now positively planning the way the garden is to look in the future with bedding plants and new shrubs. Shrubs planted in memory of loved ones by Billericay residents complement this.

Our maintenance team have continued to keep the garden in good order and we have periodic meetings to discuss routine upkeep and further improvements. A local resident, who is a Friend of the Festival Gardens also assists in keeping it spick and span.

We are aware that more residents are coming to spend time here and are very complimentary of this serene space which provides somewhere to meditate, think and reflect.

Billericay resident Susan Clark recently sent the Town Council the following comments "I would like to say how much I appreciate the effort that the Town Council is putting into the upkeep of the Festival Gardens. They are now a pleasure to see. Please keep up the good work as the gardens are a real credit to Billericay; a wonderful oasis".

Why not come along and spend some time there?

### PLANT A SHRUB – OCTOBER 2015

WOULD you like to plant a shrub in Festival Gardens to commemorate a loved one? If you would, then please get in touch with the Town Council office. For a small charge of £15 you will be able to select your shrub and place it in the beautiful, tranquil surroundings of the Festival Gardens at the end of the High Street. The actual date has not yet been set but if you register your interest as soon as possible with the Town Clerk you will be kept updated.

Email: [townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01277 625732



*Roses in full bloom*



For further information and general enquiries contact: Town Clerk  
Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX • T: 01277 625732  
F: 01277 634784 • E: [townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk) • W: [www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)

Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 12.30pm Mon-Fri. Outside these hours please ring as there may well be office staff present. Details of Town Councillors can be obtained from the Town Council website or Offices.

# BILLERICAY

in BLOOM

2015



This well-loved annual competition has just celebrated the end of its 18th year, and a prizegiving presentation was held at Canon Roche Social Centre on Friday 3rd July.

This is always such an enjoyable event and it is wonderful to welcome so many familiar faces along with the new entrants. The evening was led by the Chairman, Cllr. Jim Devlin, who introduced Ken Crowther, BBC Radio Essex's well known gardener. Ken has supported Billericay in Bloom for many years and always has a wealth of entertaining stories, anecdotes and plenty of gardening tips before presenting the prizes and certificates.

Throughout the evening a slide show played showing photographs of the entries received. This was welcomed by those present who could not only see their own gardens but also the high standard of competitor's entries. It was also encouraging to have the enthusiastic response from the schools



Quilters School – Winners of Best School Garden

in order to try to encourage children who are not able to contribute with actual gardening attempts, but could enjoy representation by way of painting, collage and model making.

An unexpected addition to the evening was the presence of the winner of the Best Vegetable Plot/Greenhouse, Danny Gould, who together with his new wife came directly from his wedding and lunch earlier that day.

A list of the winners is shown below.

## CATEGORY A – Best kept front garden – Sponsor Chequers Public House

- 1 Mr & Mrs Walters                      2 Dawn Henning                      3 Danny Gould

## CATEGORY B – Best kept small back garden – Sponsor Clarke Brothers

- 1 Margaret Thwaites                      2 John Chapman

## CATEGORY C – Best kept large back garden – Sponsor Rotary Club of Billericay

- 1 Mr & Mrs Walters                      2 Mrs Mary Pellatt                      3 Dawn Henning

## CATEGORY D – Best hanging basket/Window Box – Sponsor Billericay Nurseries

- 1 Carol Pressman                      2 Dawn Henning                      3 Mr & Mrs Walters

## CATEGORY E – Best school garden – Sponsor Waitrose

- 1 Quilters Junior                      2 Buttsbury Infants                      3 Sunnymede Infants/St Peters Catholic Primary

## CATEGORY F – Best school vegetable plot – Sponsor Billericay Town Council

- 1 Quilters Junior                      2 Buttsbury Infants                      3 Sunnymede Infants/St Peters Catholic Primary

## CATEGORY G – Best Commercial Premises/Public House/Restaurant – Sponsor SEDCOM

- 1 The Chequers                      2 The Blue Boar                      3 Bennetts

## CATEGORY H – Best vegetable plot/greenhouse – Sponsor Hallmark Care Homes

- 1 Danny Gould

## CATEGORY I – Best Garden Design – Sponsor Reginald O'Neill Dental Care

- 1 Mr & Mrs Walters                      2 Dawn Henning                      3 Mrs Mary Pellatt

## CATEGORY J – Best wildlife garden – Sponsor County Councillors Kay Twitchen & Tony Hedley

- 1 Mr Reginald O'Neill                      2 Buttsbury Infants                      3 St Peters Catholic Primary School

## CATEGORY K – Best first time entry – Sponsor Jarvis & Company

- 1 Mr & Mrs Bloomfield                      2 Barbara Gilroy

## CATEGORY L – Best water garden/feature/pond – Sponsor Skippers Ground Maintenance

- 1 Mrs Mary Pellatt                      2 Mr & Mrs Walters                      3 Barbara Gilroy

## CATEGORY M – Best Floral Representation – Sponsor Bennetts Funeral Directors

- 1 Oscar Rodgers                      2 Emily Boucher                      3 Holly Baker  
HC Darcey Oliver                      HC Sophia Gill                      HC Imogen Thistlethwaite

## BEST IN SHOW – Sponsors Billericay Lions

Mr & Mr Walters



Childrens Artwork entered in Best Floral Representation

Billericay Town Council wishes to thank everyone involved, especially the local businesses that kindly sponsor the categories and the people of Billericay for entering their gardens and showing off their horticultural talents!



All Winners with Ken Crowther from BBC Essex



Best in Show – Mr & Mrs Walters with Chairman Jim Devlin

# BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL HAS A NEW CHAIRMAN

**B**illericay Town Council had a change of Chairman for the first time in four years at their Annual Council meeting which was held on May 28th. Cllr John Buchanan stood down after a long and productive term of office. His successor is Cllr Jim Devlin who has been a member of the Town Council since 2000. He said "Cllr Buchanan is going to be a very difficult act to follow but I will try my utmost to be as good a



Chairman as he was". Cllr Devlin will be supported by Cllr Jo Clark who was re-elected as Vice-Chairman for the second year.



**F**ollowing a number of episodes of vandalism Billericay Town Council made emergency repairs to the damaged parts of the Lake Meadows skatepark and it re-opened at the start of June for use once more by the youth of Billericay. The Town Council took the decision to also refurbish the skatepark to extend its life and bring it back to former glory.

The Lake Meadows skatepark has a very strong following within the BMX, skate and scooter community all over Essex and Greater London. In the few short years since it's construction it has helped further the development of many users, some of which have gone on to be competitive riders with an international standing.

Local BMX riders such as Isaac Lesser, Billy Purcell, Jake Ellis, Luke Duffy, Mike King, and Matt Oliver have very high regard for the Lake Meadows ramp. They say it's creative design allows them to progress their riding and learn new tricks that other facilities don't afford them.

In reaching the decision to refurbish, the Town Council took into account the opinions of many riders who think plywood ramps are the nicest surface to ride/skate on and that combination ramps like Lake Meadows are a lot of fun and very versatile.

There is a view that the skatepark is past it's best and perhaps should be replaced by a concrete structure. However the Town Council chose to listen to the riders and believes investment in refurbishing the skatepark will not only add years to the ramp's life but also provide a unique skatepark in South Essex. Town Council Chairman, Jim Devlin, said "This is an opportunity to invest in the youth of the Town and to give a long term future to a much used facility. We are proud we have been able to find the money to do this necessary work and it is hoped that riders will be able to continue enjoying entertaining and productive sessions at Lake Meadows for a long time to come".

# LITTER PICK

## WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

OUTWOOD Common was the venue for the latest Town Council litter pick on Saturday 9th May. Those who helped had a very successful event collecting many bags of litter. It was a very worthwhile exercise to see the area cleared of considerable rubbish, including a large number of cans and packaging waste which had been left around the green area.

# DON'T BE LEFT OUT!



**T**he Town Council has been receiving a steady stream of articles from Billericay community groups and other organisations for inclusion in the next edition of the Town Guide. This will be produced in October and distributed to every household in the Billericay area.

If you are a member of a Billericay Club, Organisation or Group that has not yet submitted your contribution and would like to do so please let us have your articles as soon as possible. Make sure you include contact details and a website address along with details of what you do.

Send your articles to; Town Clerk, Billericay Town Council, The Loft, Crown Yard, Billericay CM12 9BX: Telephone 01277 625732 or email: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk  
An article in the Town Guide is your opportunity to get free publicity. It is a chance to showcase your organisation and encourage people to join you.

# BYTC YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

**O**n Sunday 12th July, members of the Billericay Youth Town Council, together with Town Councillors John Buchanan, Jo Clark and Daphne Spencer, took part in the Summerfest which was held at Sun Corner. This is always a great event and attracts lots of interest due to the variety of stalls and entertainment that is provided. Fortunately the weather was kind to us and did not put people off from attending.

This was the first year that the Youth Councillors had participated and they chose to offer a Lucky Dip for the younger children and also a game which entailed balancing a coin on a lemon floating in water. This was a challenge to children of all ages, and much fun was had by all.



Town Councillor Daphne Spencer with Youth Councillors Charlie Odell, Alex Maas, Harrison Birch and his friend Tyler at the Summerfest stall

# HANGING BASKETS IN THE HIGH STREET

By the time your copy of the Town Crier comes through the door the hanging baskets will be providing a colourful floral display all along the High Street. However, some eagle eyed Billericay residents may have noticed that they were rather late going up this year. This was due to the fact that legislation now requires anyone working on or near the highway to be accredited under the New Road and Street Works Act (NRSWA) to prove competency in signing, lighting and guarding. Our contractor had to source and undertake this training, and ECC Highways would not issue the Consent Order for the installation of the baskets until they had sight of the certificate. Other works such as the War Memorial, Jim Shields Garden and planters was carried out some time ago enhancing the look of the High Street.

As with most things that the Town Council do to improve the appearance of Billericay there is usually a lot of preparation and behind the scenes administrative tasks that have to be completed before the end results are seen!



communitynews



## Focus on Local Charities



Hamelin Trust is a local registered charity supporting children and adults with disabilities. In March we re-located our High Street charity shop to new premises at The Hub, 19 Radford Crescent, Billericay,

CM12 0DU (near to Lake Meadows and the swimming pool). The Hub offers a retail shop and a training area, supporting adults with learning disabilities.


At The Hub people will have the opportunity to carry out till training, window dressing, and developing displays – using colour, lighting and space to showcase items for sale. We are currently recruiting volunteers. To join our team please contact Nicky Evans on 01277 314232 for more information.

There are also further opportunities for adults with disabilities to be involved in our established training projects at this site. Our re-use and recycling projects provide opportunities to learn transferable work related skills, achieve accredited training and have a positive impact on reducing waste being tipped into landfill. The projects include:  
**IT recycling** – individuals learn how to wipe hard drives, refurbish and re-sell computers through our charity shops.  
**Furniture Restoration** – donated furniture is given a new lease of life by reapplying varnish/paint. Skills are learnt in French polishing, fine art work, constructing items, sawing and measuring.

**Textile recycling (Sew much fun)** – teaching skills in dress making, alterations and creating items such as aprons, teddy bears, bags, door stops, hair bands etc. All materials are donated through our charity shops.

Please come and visit us at: 19 Radford Crescent, Billericay, CM12 0DU. Contact us on Tel: 01277 653889 or visit our website on [www.hamelintrust.org.uk](http://www.hamelintrust.org.uk) for further details.

We have current volunteer opportunities please contact Nicky on 01277 314232 for more details. We also have a number of staff vacancies across our services, please visit our website for more details [www.hamelintrust.org.uk](http://www.hamelintrust.org.uk)

Like us on 

## A COMMUNITY CINEMA FOR BILLERICAY?

IT'S been a while since Billericay had a cinema – The Ritz in Chapel Street closed its doors in 1971. But if a group of residents have their way that may soon change.

The group behind @BillericayCine plan on showing two films a month in the Library – one for adult audiences and once for children. From blockbusters to musicals, silent movies to subtitled films and from independent UK films to classics such as *Gone with the Wind* they will be catering for a wide range of film tastes.

“Community Cinemas” are an increasingly popular alternative to the larger but more expensive, remote and often impersonal multiplexes. @BillericayCine will be run entirely by volunteers on a not-for-profit basis showing films to smaller local audiences in a more personalised environment right on our High Street.

The idea came about during “Billericay’s Big Do”, an initiative from Essex County Council to find ways that residents could make better use of the Library and Burghstead Lodge next door, key community assets.

The @BillericayCine team especially want to encourage local residents who wouldn’t normally consider travelling to Basildon to see a film – perhaps they don’t have a car, don’t like driving in the dark, would not go on their own or simply find them too expensive.

Community Cinemas don’t try to compete with the multiplexes. Where they excel is in offering films that either aren’t showing in the big cinemas or rarely get seen on the big screen; by offering a locally oriented and personal service, perhaps accompanied by a glass of wine during the interval or an old fashioned ice cream along with the occasional “themed” evening (come “Dressed to Kill” to a James Bond movie!) – and all at a more affordable price.

If you want to be kept up to date with the latest news you can subscribe to their monthly newsletter ([bit.ly/BillericayCinemaNewsletter](http://bit.ly/BillericayCinemaNewsletter)) or join their active Facebook page ([facebook.com/BillericayCommunityCinema](https://facebook.com/BillericayCommunityCinema)).

Thanks to a grant of £500 from Billericay Town Council and Essex County Council’s CIF Fund the reality of a cinema has taken a huge step forward.



# BILLERICAY'S FIRE STATIONS

Billericay's first Fire Station was in Chapel Street. The building is still there at the end of the old cottages behind St Mary Magdalen and is currently occupied by Hunts Central Heating and the door is still red. This station originally operated a hand pushed appliance.



Post WWII the station moved to a site in Western Road opposite Chestnut Avenue which had been the home of the Royal British Legion since 1929. In the 1970's the station moved to the present

◀ Western Road – Courtesy of Essex Fire Museum

site in Laindon Road.

There are unsubstantiated reports that during WWII the Fire Station was moved to Sun Street, but it is believed that Fire Engines often were parked outside the ARP Post there. Can you



▲ Chapel Street

add to the information we have about any of the Fire Stations but particularly about what happened in WWII?

Contact details editor@billericayhistory.org.uk 01277 656937.

## IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!



Earlier this month a party of American students and teachers from Fishers in Indiana, paid their annual visit to Billericay. They will be staying with families of students of the Billericay and Mayflower High Schools.

During their visit they spent a day in each of the schools to gain experience of our education system; and at the Mayflower High School they were serenaded with a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. We also took them on a narrow boat on the Paper Mill lock where they learned to steer the boat and deal with the locks. The day ended with an English afternoon tea in our historic St Mary Magdalen Church. Living in the middle of America many of them had never seen the sea or been on a train. Visits to Southend and London remedied that. The Twinning Association would like to thank Billericay Town Council who gave us permission to fly their Fisher's town flag on the Council's flag pole at the police station while they were here.



We will also be taking them on a narrow boat on the Paper Mill lock, spending a day in London, having an English afternoon tea in our historic Mary Magdalen church and getting to know our English ways.

Living in the middle of America many of them have not only not been out of the USA but may never have seen the sea or been on a train. We hope to remedy that. We would like to thank Billericay Town Council who gave us permission to fly their Fisher's town flag on the Council's flag post at the police station while they were here.



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## RAISING THE FLAG CEREMONY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE



The Mayor of Basildon gave an opening speech to members of the public, Parish Councillors, Borough Councillors, County Councillors, Officers of Basildon Borough Council and members of the Royal British Legion. He then raised the Armed Forces flag. The day

was planned to coincide with the presentation of a military archive in the form of a bound book which gave details of those from the districts of Basildon who had died serving in WW1.

The contents of the archive is also contained in binders for each district, for example, a binder specifically relating to Billericay and the Bursteads was available for attendees to view. The fitting and beautifully collated binders are meticulous, where names like Albert, Percival and Arthur are poignant reminders of the historic nature of these records. It was decided to use loose leaf binders for this part of the record to accommodate any amendments or additions.

It was suggested that the binder for Billericay and Great Burstead would be placed in St Mary Magdalen Church in Billericay High Street.



# CATER MUSEUM

74 High Street, Billericay  
For further details telephone:  
01277 622023

## WHAT'S ON AT THE CATER MUSEUM

ON 17th October the Cater Museum is holding a WW1 exhibition in the Reading Rooms, and this year will be displaying some objects not seen before.

### 2pm-5pm

Joint display of WW1 artefacts and uniforms with the opportunity to bring along family heirlooms from the War and learn more about them (no valuations given). Members of the museum staff and Western Front Association will be on hand to answer your questions.

### 7pm-9pm

An interesting talk entitled 1915: Grief, Gas and Gallipoli.

Refreshments will be available at both sessions.

## JULY – 'SCAMS AWARENESS' MONTH

This joint campaign between the Citizens Advice Bureau and Trading Standards is supported by Essex Police. Basildon Borough Council has also issued a scam warning about bogus callers contacting residents claiming to be from the Council and the police have issued a scam alert about a courier fraudster identifying themselves as Detective Constable Martin Benton.

The advice is to be vigilant and cautious. Here are some top tips for avoiding scams:

- The police, councils, and banks will never ask for account details over the phone.
- Your bank will never ask you to transfer money to a new account for fraud reasons.
- Your bank will never send a courier to your home.
- Your bank and the police will never collect your bank card.
- Your bank and the police will never ask for your PIN.
- If you receive such a call end it immediately.
- Always ask for and check identification of anyone you do business with and especially before letting anyone you don't know into your home.
- Always take time and seek independent advice when paying for goods or services. If you are put under pressure to make a decision just say "no." If you have been affected call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call Billericay Police on: 07969365610.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS AUGUST 2015

Tue 11 Planning  
Tue 25 Planning

## SEPTEMBER 2015

Tue 1 Environment  
Tue 8 Planning  
Thur 10 Finance & GP  
Thur 17 Town Council  
Tue 22 Planning

## OCTOBER 2015

Tue 6 Planning  
Tue 13 Environment  
Tue 20 Planning  
Thur 22 Finance & GP  
Thur 29 Town Council

All meetings are open to the public and press and are held in The Coach House, Crown Yard, unless otherwise stated and start at 7.00pm.

## ESSEX POLICE

24 hour non-emergency number 101

# BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

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