



Billericay Town Crier

YOUR QUALITY COUNCIL

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

October 2010

Can we clean up Billericay? Yes We Can!!

The High Street is now free of gum after a successful contract for water washing the pavements each side from end to end has now been concluded. We were so impressed with the outcome we thought it was clean enough to eat from, so one afternoon we recently had fun enjoying a picnic on the pavement outside of Raven's our local baker, who helped us with some good cakes. With colleagues and some young people we arranged ourselves in glorious sunshine to enjoy the fact that the area is now so very clean. We cleaned up afterwards and took our litter home; please can we all do our best to keep our town litter and gum free.

We have had a number of letters and calls regarding the litter of late being left on the open space at Sun Corner. This area is very popular with dog walkers, local walkers, children playing and young teenagers who we feel benefit from gathering there, often sitting in groups interacting and discussing the issues of the day. However when they leave the area often there is a heap of litter left behind where they had met. This litter then gets scattered around and creates one awful sight for us all; why do these people want to leave their trademark behind when there are an ample number of litter bins in the area. This is the key question. How can we start to prevent it, do we have any ideas from our residents?

We are planning another 'Big Litter Pick' during November to again engage groups and individuals who want to help to get the message across to all residents the importance of keeping our town as clean as possible. The 'Big Litter Pick' will take place on Saturday 6 November between 10.00 am and 12 noon and anyone interested should either contact the Town Clerk or be in attendance at The Coach House, Crown Yard at 9.45 am.

Cllr Peter Bowditch, Chairman.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Work is well under way to provide Billericay residents with a touch of festive sparkle for Christmas in 2010. Again, this year, the High Street will be illuminated from Sun Corner roundabout over the railway bridge to Radford Way roundabout with colourful icicle lights and festoon lights on trees. We have refrained from spending on additional decorations this year as we deemed it prudent during the ongoing economic and financial instability.

Like last year, the lamp columns will be dressed with colourful illuminated traditional motifs as far as possible, but unfortunately we may not be able to cover the whole stretch of the High Street this year. This is due to higher authorities having deemed several lamp columns as unsafe to carry motif lights and are in need of replacement; some of these have already been taken down. Unfortunately it is entirely out of our control as to if and when this work is likely to be undertaken and we can only hope that at least some of the columns in question will have been replaced or re-installed before the festive period. On the positive side, once all lamp columns in question have been replaced they will all be eligible for holding Christmas decorations well into the future; however this year, we may have to accept that there will be gaps in the lamp column display.

The Celebration of Christmas Lights 2010 will take place on Saturday 27 November at 4 pm outside the Chequers Pub, when again this year the Wickford Salvation Army Band will support Billericay School Choir and residents in Carol Singing and Father Christmas himself will be conducting the countdown. There will be lots of colourful costumes courtesy of the Youth Town Council and of course, yes, there will be snow.

So please come along again this year, old and young, and join us to celebrate the start of the Festive Season in our town. This year, there will be an angel on the lamp column outside the Chequers Pub. Surely this has to guarantee that this pivotal motif will actually come on first this time as intended! Come along and have a look.

Cllr Tina Arnold, Chairman Christmas Lights Working Party



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 • **W:** www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 2.30pm 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

Winners

On Friday 23rd July the winners of this year's Billericay in Bloom competition were announced at the Annual Prizegiving held at the Canon Roche Social Centre. This was a very enjoyable occasion as there were a large number of entrants in attendance to hear the results, ranging from School children through to residents of Sheltered Accommodation.

Also in attendance were John Baron, MP and Cllr Mo Larkin, Chairman of Basildon District Council and Ken Crowther, BBC Essex Radio presenter who presented the prizes. Our thanks go to all our sponsors as indicated on the list of prizewinners.

WINNERS – BILLERICAY IN BLOOM 2010

BEST KEPT SMALL FRONT – Sponsor: Michael Letch & Partners

Carol Pressman	First
Barbara Macbeath	Second
Mrs Elena Young	Third

BEST KEPT LARGE FRONT – Sponsor: Jarvis Print

Mrs Anne Morris	First
Mr & Mrs B Allison	Second
Betty Ward	Third

BEST KEPT SMALL BACK –

Sponsor: Billericay Mayflower Twinning Association

Maureen Higdon	First
Mrs D Turrell	Second
Mrs Elena Young	Third

BEST KEPT LARGE BACK – Sponsor: Village Grill

Mrs M Pellatt	First
Eleanor & Ken Tout	Second
Mr. Hurrick	Third

BEST HANGING BASKET – Sponsor: Billericay Nurseries

Reg O'Neill Dental Practice	First
Mrs Anne Morris	Second
Barbara Macbeath	Third

BEST SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION –

Sponsor Billericay Rotary Club

Mrs. R Seaman	First
Mrs. B Evans	Second
Mrs Iris Rist	Third

BEST SCHOOL GARDEN – Sponsor: Waitrose

Quilters Infants	First
St. Peter's School	Second
Sunnymede Junior	Third

BEST COMMERCIAL PREMISES – Sponsor: Chequers Public House

Reg O'Neill Dental Practice	First
Village Bar & Grill	Second
Bennetts Funeral Directors	Third

BEST PUBLIC HOUSE – Sponsor: Billericay Town Council

The White Hart	First
The Chequers	Second
Blue Boar	Third



BEST GARDEN IN A POT – WORLD CUP THEME –

Sponsor: Bennetts Funerals

Mason Lee, Sunnymede Infants	First
Spencer Buddell, Sunnymede Infants	Second
Joshua Simkins, Sunnymede Jrs	Third
Jacey Byrne, Sunnymede Infants	Certificate of Entry

BEST VEGETABLE PLOT – Sponsors: Billericay Cook Shop

Douglas Smith	First
Ifor Roberts	Second
Mrs Elena Young	Third

BEST TOPIARY DESIGN - Sponsors: Billericay Lions

John Darwent	First
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BEST GARDEN DESIGN – EITHER FRONT OR BACK GARDEN –

Sponsors: Michaela, Beauty Consultants

Eleanor & Ken Tout	First
Mr Peter Downes	Second
Mrs Doris Turrell	Third

BEST WATER GARDEN – Sponsors: Hallmark Healthcare Holdings

Mrs M Pellatt	First
Eleanor & Ken Tout	Second
Mr Peter Downes	Third

Quiz – Joint Winners

Mr Peter Downes
Mrs Doris Turrell
Mr. & Mrs Pellatt

Best In Competition – Mrs M Pellatt



THE BILLERICAY GREENING CAMPAIGN ENDS

Although the results from households displaying the 'Billericay Greening' commitment cards in their windows were disappointing, many benefits have accrued during the life of the Campaign. We have reinforced the message that small changes in household habits can collectively have massive benefits across the community and these now form part of many household's everyday way of life. That there is a well of environmental interest and commitment across many individuals and groups within the community especially from our younger people in playgroups, schools and clubs and the contacts Billericay Town Council have established should prove invaluable for future initiatives. I would like to thank all those who took part in the Campaign particularly at the Public Meeting and the Green Day and especially those members of the public who sat on our Working Party. Billericay Town Council will actively support any future environment initiatives driven by community groups.

David Knight – Billericay Greening Campaign

IT'S OFFICIAL – WE'RE THE BEST



Cllr Peter Bowditch, Chairman of the Council receiving one award from Cllr John Buchanan, Chairman of the EALC

Town Council representatives attending the Essex Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting were delighted to pick up three Awards for the Town Council. Competing against all Town and Parish Councils within Essex, Billericay achieved 1st Place in the Communications Award. This was in recognition of the Council's Town Crier Newsletter plus the town's Design Statement produced by the Design Statement Association: the Judges in their comments stated

"the winner was a Council which provided a very informative Newsletter with lots of interesting photo's and news items and a Design Statement with an outstanding presentation" The Town Council are very grateful to David Vinten, Graphic Designer who works on the Town Crier.

Third place was also achieved in the Local Democracy & Citizenship category for the work undertaken with the Youth Council and on the Greening Campaign and finally the Council was awarded for receiving the Power of Well Being qualification and undergoing the necessary training. A very successful evening for the Town Council.

DESIGN STATEMENT LAUNCH



Cllr Tony Ball, Leader BDC, John Baron, MP, Ian Davie Chairman BDSA, County Councillor Kay Twitchen and Cllr Peter Bowditch, Chairman BTC

On 9 July the Billericay Design Statement (BDS) was formally presented to Cllr Tony Ball, Leader of Basildon District Council, on behalf of the people of Billericay.

The event took place in St Mary Magdalen Church and was attended by John Baron, MP for Billericay, Cllr Kay Twitchen OBE, Deputy Chairman of Essex County Council, and Cllr Peter Bowditch, Chairman of the Town Council.

Design Statements are an initiative by Natural England, formerly the Countryside Agency, to record, retain and strengthen the character of rural towns. The document contains recommendations, based on two rounds of community consultation, for enhancing and protecting the distinctive aspects of Billericay. These recommendations are expected to be adopted by the District Council and used in the assessment of local planning applications. The project began three years ago with support from the Town Council.

A limited number of copies of the BDS are available free of charge from the Town Council offices in Crown Yard; reference copies can be examined also in the Library. It is hoped that eventually a short form version will be delivered to every household in the area.

Ian Davie – Chairman, Billericay Design Statement Association

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 2010

Tues 9 Planning

Tues 16 Environment

Tues 23 Planning

Thur 25 Finance & General Purposes

DECEMBER 2010

Tues 7 Planning

Thur 9 TOWN COUNCIL (Estimates)

Tues 21 Planning

JANUARY 2011

Tues 4 Planning

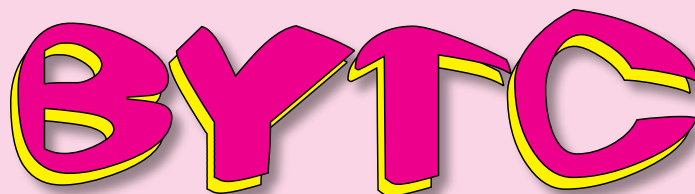
Tues 11 Environment

Thur 13 Finance & General Purposes

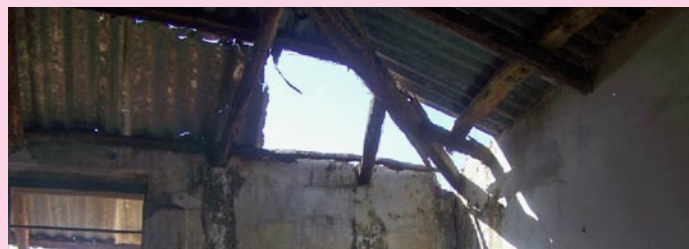
Tues 18 Planning

Thur 27 TOWN COUNCIL

All meetings start at 7.00 p.m. and are held in The Coach House, Crown Yard, High Street and are open to the public.



Billericay Youth Town Council



As a result of the Talent Contest held on 3rd July, members of the Youth Town Council agreed to donate £150 of the proceeds to the charity HELPING (Help for Education and Local Projects IN the Gambia) as they had recently seen a very informative and moving slideshow on the work of this charity which is based in Hertfordshire. They were aware that two of the classrooms at the school in Fass had holes in the roof and it was hoped that the money raised would be used for repairs. Confirmation has subsequently been received that this money has enabled the purchase of the materials and the work will be undertaken so that the children can attend school whatever the weather. Such a small amount of money will provide much needed facilities for these children.

Further details of HELPING can be obtained by viewing the website: www.helping-gambia.org.uk

FOOD WASTE

Following the launch of the Food Waste Recycling programme, if required compostable bags for use in the kitchen caddy can be obtained from the Town Council offices at a cost of £3 for 50 bags.

THE TWINNING SIGNS ARE BACK



Cllr Peter Bowditch Chairman of the Town Council, Mr. Paul Bishop Billericay Nurseries, Cllr Marion Wilson Chairman Billericay Twinning Association and Mr Brian Hughes Chairman Billericay Mayflower Twinning Association

Some years ago the Billericay Twinning Association purchased four signs depicting the towns with which Billericay is twinned, namely Billerica, Chauvigny and Fishers. Three of these were erected on the roads leading in to Billericay from Chelmsford, Southend and Brentwood. The fourth was to be put on the road coming in from Basildon when Essex County council put the BILLERICAY sign in place; this has now been done.

Last year the Billericay sign in the London Road was knocked down by a car and it and the twinning sign disappeared. The two Twinning Associations in the town, namely the Mayflower and the Billericay Associations, approached the Town Council for a grant towards its replacement. This was approved and the new sign has just been installed. Flower beds will be placed around both signs, the one in London Road being provided and maintained by Billericay Nurseries (who do our hanging baskets) at their own expense.



CATER MUSEUM

THE BILLERICAY MODEL

The scale model of Billericay's High Street was created by Harry Richman, first curator of the Cater Museum. Often seen walking with a notebook in hand, Harry Richman spent years noting details and sketching buildings in the town and surrounding areas.

Work on the model began in a small way in 1933 when he built replicas of Bassom's (34/36 High Street now Argos) and the Chequers. About 1943 these were seen by the late J.H. Ford, who persuaded Harry to expand the project. Sketches had already been made of the fronts of most buildings long before the idea of the model was suggested.

But the model required knowledge of all sides of the buildings. A letter signed by the Clerk of the Billericay Urban Council and addressed to the property owners and occupiers helped him to gain access to properties for his research. It is interesting to note that only two occupiers refused to co-operate. And when views at street level were impossible, trips up the church tower and the belvedere (high turret commanding a wide view) at Hurlocks (now the Blue Boar) proved useful!

The model shows the extent and appearance of buildings long divided up, altered or demolished. It also shows the many footpaths that went between the buildings, a number of which still remain today, a good example being Lion Walk which runs along the side of the Red Lion. There were signs that this inn, described by the Royal Commission as a 'fragment of a 15th century house', along with its many outbuildings, may have extended as far as Houghton's (103 High Street – now Graham Webb). And there is a tradition that a wing to the rear once formed lodgings for servants of the guests staying at the inn.

The town model was on display at the Reading Rooms on September 24th and 25th.

BILLERICAY'S BIG RACE

The Billericay 10k is attracting some of the best athletes in the County as well as the most enthusiastic fun runners. The 10k (6.2 miles) race will take place on Sunday 7th November 2010. It will be the 15th running of this popular run and the organisers – Billericay Striders Running Club – were winners of the 'Howard Williams Trophy' for the most popular road race in Essex last year.

Dave Sweet, the Race Director and Secretary of the Club is responsible for its popularity and is head of a team of 80 experienced race marshals. All the marshals are members of Billericay Striders Running Club who give up their

Sunday morning run to police the route and ensure the safety of the runners.

The race will start at Hannakins Community Centre at 9.45am. Runners will take a scenic route via Queens Park Avenue out to the Ingatestone Road and back via Mountnessing Road. The finish line is at Brightside School. Paul Lovewell from Physiotherapy in Stock is helping finance the race and Headlines

Hairdressing are putting up a £50 cash prize to the winners of the race (Male and Female). There will be an additional £50 each should they break the course records. For the thirsty finishers Essex & Suffolk Water will provide free bottled water after the race.

A proportion of the race entry fee will be donated to the Club's nominated charity – St Luke's Hospice.

The race attracts people of all abilities from first timers to elite club athletes. There is a special Youth category for 15-21 year olds. If you would like to enter the race, you can download an entry form from www.billericaystriders.com but be quick, there is a limit of 750 entrants and this limit is expected to be reached soon.

ALL DAY CHRISTMAS MARKET TO BRING SUNDAY FUN TO BILLERICAY

A NEW venture is being launched for the town on Sunday December 5 as Billericay prepares to celebrate an early start to the festivities with an all-day Christmas Market and entertainment. Shops, local organisations and the town's businesses are behind what the organisers believe will be one of the most adventurous new events seen in recent years. The High Street will be closed to traffic for the day and bus routes diverted along other roads near to the town centre. The joint package of trading and entertainment sees the introduction of a traditional market with food and craftwork from the continent plus an English farmers market. This will complement the wide range of goods available from regular High Street shops which will open for the day.

A Santa Claus parade to his grotto at The Reading Rooms begins the entertainment and two stages are to be set up at vantage points in the High Street to offer a range of performances including bands, children's groups and choirs. Street entertainers will also join in and St Mary's Church will once again be the setting for carols from church choirs throughout much of the day. The Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower who have organised pre-Christmas Fun Nights and Christmas Family fayres on midweek evenings for the past 16 years have decided to make the move to all day on a Sunday after consulting the town's Chamber of Commerce, individual shop-keepers and local organisations.

They are being joined in the event by other Rotarians, the Lions Club and

Round Table who have promised support both in the organisation and in running the event and the Town Council have signified their support.

At the time of going to press, generous sponsorship has been obtained from Essex Auto Group, The Burstead Golf Club and Fish n Chicken and the Billericay District Residents' Association will be sponsoring Punch and Judy. Anyone wishing to sponsor the event should email: djr66@aol.com for details.

Chairman of the organising committee David Randall said that the switch to a daytime Sunday brings the chance for families to enjoy a Billericay version of a continental Christmas Market. It seems to make more sense to hold it during the day on a Sunday as families will have time for a relaxed visit to the High Street. In past years many people have been put off from going out on a cold winter evening after having to rush home from work. Mr Randall went on to say "Unlike so many big events where you pay dearly to go in, this will be free. And so too will the car parking. Generously NCP have 'given' us the station car park for the day at no charge. Billericay School car park will also be available at the other end of the town. It will be a good day for local charities with many organisations selling gifts for a good cause and any surplus from the entire day will go to charity and there WILL be snow: It will be targeted on those enjoying the fun outside The Chequers pub as equipment provides a gentle covering of flakes upon the passing crowds."

BILLERICAY COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

The Billericay Community Archive is a new group that has been set up in conjunction with Essex Libraries and the Essex Records office with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The aim of the Billericay Community Archive is to collect together all sorts of records relating to Billericay and its residents from the distant past up to the present day. We will publish these records on a dedicated website so they will be available anywhere in the world.

To launch the Archive we will be holding an open house in Billericay Library from 10am until 4pm on Saturday 20th November where members of the group will be available to explain what we are doing and to collect items for the archive.

What are we looking for? – Old and not so old photographs taken in the town or at events in and around the town, film or video footage, old documents or maps and most important of all your memories. We will scan any items that you have that you will allow us to put on the website and soon after the launch you will be able to upload items direct to the Archive. We also want to interview people about their memories and not only will these be used to create features on the website but recordings will be placed in the Essex Records Office for posterity.

Drop in for a chat and see what we are doing. Bring any items of interest with you and we'll scan them so you can take them home straight away.

BUTTSBURY PRE-SCHOOL'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

This year's Buttsbury Pre-school's Christmas Shopping Evening will take place on Thursday 11th November, at Buttsbury Infant School Hall, Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0NX. Doors open at 8.00 pm and tickets will cost £3.50 Adult, £2.50 Concessions on the door or in advance from the Pre-school £3 Adult, £2.00 Concessions (with a free raffle ticket). All tickets will include a complimentary glass of wine/fruit juice and a seasonal biscuit/pie.