



Billericay Town Crier

YOUR QUALITY COUNCIL

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

July 2011



Festival Gardens, sited at the corner of Crown Road and Norsey Road, has long been a place to seek calm and tranquility. It has provided pleasure for many of the people of Billericay over the years. It was donated anonymously to the previous Billericay Urban District Council in celebration of the 1951 Festival of Britain and from its upper garden tier provides panoramic views over much of southern Essex. A mounted plaque indicates the distance and direction of many local places. In recent years, the Gardens have been used as one of the sites for our biannual 'Plant a Shrub' events where people can purchase a shrub or a rose to commemorate and remember a loved one and be in attendance when



FESTIVAL GARDENS – a place of calm and tranquility

the shrub or rose is planted. These events are poignant but at the same time uplifting.

The photo shows Borough Councillor Kevin Blake, cabinet member for Basildon Borough Council, handing Festival Gardens over to representatives from Billericay Town Council. The Council will now take full responsibility for the gardens and ensure that they retain their special status within Billericay. This, in part, will be achieved by improved cultivation and more regular maintenance so that its calm and tranquility continues within a green sanctuary of peace within our town.

David Knight – Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Environment Committee



CHAIRMAN

At the Annual Town Council meeting held on 26th May Cllr John Buchanan was appointed Chairman and Cllr David Knight Vice-Chairman. This is the last term of office before the elections in May 2012.

For further information and general enquiries contact:

Town Clerk • Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX

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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.



SKATEPARK

The new skate park sited in the Lake Meadows 'teen area' has been completed. The photos show the skate park being constructed by our contractors – 3B Ramps – and the finished product. It is now being energetically used by our skateboard, BMX and roller blade enthusiasts whether they are experts or novices. One skateboarder said "It is challenging and great fun and has



attracted many young people". The skate park shows what can be achieved when the Town Council, the Youth Town Council and the skateboarders themselves collaborate. Thank you to the young people involved.

David Knight – Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Environment Committee

BILLERICAY IN BLOOM

HANGING BASKET DEMONSTRATION



To commence this year's Billericay in Bloom competition, a hanging baskets' demonstration was staged in the Reading Rooms, High Street, Billericay on 18th May. Andrea Hatfield entertained those in attendance by showing

easy and effective ways of assembling a hanging basket. This was a most enjoyable evening and all those in attendance learnt something from the information provided by Andrea. Baskets and flowering pots were also available for purchase.



Andrea at work

LITTER PICK

A record number turned out for the 'Big Litter Pick' organised by the Town Council on Saturday 2nd April. Over forty people, including a large number of youth members of the community, assembled at the Coach House to assist in removing unwanted litter from the High Street and areas of the town that do not receive a regular clean. In attendance were Town Councillors and Borough Councillors Richard Moore and Kevin Blake. There were also members of the Billericay Rotary Clubs, Billericay Royal British Legion, 1st Buttsbury Brownies, Billericay Methodist Church and members of the Air Training Corps as well as members of the public who had given up part of their weekend to help make Billericay a tidier place. It was encouraging to note that less litter was collected on this occasion; however there was still a problem with discarded cigarette butts.



NEW COUNCILLOR FOR THE BILLERICAY EAST WARD

Cllr Bob Chapman was co-opted on to the Town Council during April 2011 to fill the vacant seat in the East Ward. Bob has always lived in Billericay and has many hobbies including tennis, jive dancing, participating in quizzes and playing the guitar. He is an administrator for Royal Mail and decided he wanted to be a Councillor to give something back to the community where he lives.



MAKE SURE YOU GET INTO THE NEXT TOWN GUIDE

Every edition of the Town Guide so far has been oversubscribed.

To make sure your club or society is included let us have the information about what you do, where you do it and who to contact by 15 August, 2011. We will also be including an additional section on Volunteer Groups so please forward relevant details.

We particularly want to know if you are planning anything special for either the Queen's Jubilee or the Olympic games. Send your contributions with a photo if possible to the Town Clerk.



TOWN WALKS

Following the success of last year's free Town Walk, Billericay Town Council, in conjunction with the Billericay Society, have organised Town Walks on the following dates:

Sunday 31st July,
Saturday 13th & Sunday 28th August
and Saturday 10th September.

Meeting at Billericay Railway Station at 2pm these leisurely walks through Billericay provide information about the history and architecture of the High Street.



communitynews

LIBRARY

REVISED OPENING HOURS

As from Monday 4th July the opening hours of the Library changed to Monday – Saturday 9am – 5pm and closed on Sundays.

HIGHWAY ENQUIRIES

Essex County Council have set up a dedicated Customer Liaison Team within Highways & Transportation to ensure that all customers receive timely, appropriate and consistent responses to all enquiries across the Highways Service. If you wish to contact the team for the South Area Office (Basildon) telephone: 08456037631 or email: H&TLocalism&Customersouth@essex.gov.uk

Residents of Cranmer Close enjoyed the street party to celebrate the Royal Wedding on Friday 29th April.



THE CATER MUSEUM

**Every Object Tells A Story –
William Makepeace Thackeray's Custard Cup**

You can see this in the Cater Museum

This delicate custard cup was owned and used by the author William Makepeace Thackeray, who lived from 1811 to 1863. Thackeray was born in Calcutta, where his father held the high rank of secretary to the Board of Revenue of the British East India Company. Upon the death of his father, Thackeray and his mother returned to England, stopping at St. Helena, where the former emperor Napoleon was pointed out to the boy.

Thackeray is probably best known for his novels "Vanity Fair" and "The Luck of Barry Lyndon", both of which have been made into films.

The cup came into the possession of Thackeray's cousin, Mr. Wand. Wand lived in Brentwood where he was in business as an ironmonger. In 1888 he gave the cup to a Mr. George Brown, also of Brentwood and it was eventually passed to the Cater Museum by members of that family.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION IN BILLERICAY



The Billericay Branch has enjoyed reading "The Great Gatsby and The Roaring Twenties" thanks to tutor, Stephen O'Kane. It's been more than reading a novel and finding out about the writer; it's also about history and geography as well as life in the twenties. Stephen starts the 2011/12 season off with 'Talking Heads' on 28th September. This is an 8 week course (costing £46) and will be held on Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm in The Billericay Reading Rooms in the High Street.

For further information: go to the website www.wea-eastern.org.uk or contact Eva Jackson on 01277 652860 or email: thecatpatch@hotmail.co.uk

CATER MUSEUM

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

WHAT'S ON – OCTOBER

Harvest time on the farm.

A focus on objects and photographs from the farming past.

ARTHRITIS CARE – BILLERICAY BRANCH

Caring person required for voluntary secretarial role.

Small, friendly group. Monthly meetings.

For further details telephone 01277 657658.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Sunnymede Junior School As part of a Royal Opera House Creative Partnerships project, the whole school has been involved in not only writing stories to be published but also learning about how a book is made, how to develop ideas for a story and how to illustrate written work. The result of this project is a book entitled *Out of This World*, containing stories from every class in the school.

On Friday 24 June, the school celebrated this achievement in a special assembly.

Billericay Nurseries who provide us with our wonderful Hanging Baskets, on being requested to provide over 4,000 geraniums to the Tower of London and other Royal Gardens.

Sophie Harrison and Taylor Cronly-Dillon, members of the Billericay Youth Town Council, have been selected as finalists in the Essex Police Young People of the Year Awards.



TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS AUGUST 2011

Tuesday 2 Planning
Thursday 4 TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday 16 Planning
Tuesday 30 Planning

SEPTEMBER 2011

Thursday 1 Finance & General Purposes
Tuesday 6 Environment
Tuesday 13 Planning
Thursday 15 TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday 27 Planning

OCTOBER 2011

Tuesday 11 Planning
Tuesday 18 Environment
Thursday 20 Finance & General Purposes
Tuesday 25 Planning

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

BASILDON COUNCIL SATURDAY CRUNCH SERVICE

9.00 am to 12 noon – Garden refuse and general rubbish can be taken to the following:
6 August Hannakins Farm
13 August Little Burstead Car Park

ESSEX POLICE

24 hour non-emergency number 0300 333 4444



VENUES FOR ART TRAIL

The A127 Art Trail needs new venues for artists to exhibit across Basildon Borough during the 2011's event in September. Over 65 artists have applied to exhibit in this year's art trail, increasing from 30 last year. Many venues have agreed to take part again this year after participating in 2010's initial trail, which covered the three towns of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford. 30 premises, from shops to cafés and hairdressers to garden centres acted as temporary galleries for a diverse range of artwork from water colours to photographs. But with so many more artists this year, even more venues are needed. Those venues in Billericay that have already indicated they will be taking part are:

Picturesque, Kasbah, Amanda Collins Photography, Slipped Disc/Brown Sugar, Revere, Bells Blinds, Blue Bee Florist, The Coach House Store, Lamps, The Emporium, Billericay Cookshop, Gimme Shooz, Caroline Charles, The Fold and St Mary Magdalen Church. Anywhere with a little space can be a venue and more information can be obtained by contacting Dean Smith on: 01268 522973 or go to www.a127trail.com.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Tina Arnold				E
Peter Bowditch				W
John Buchanan				E
Robert Chapman				E
Ian Davie				W
Jim Devlin				W
Colin Dyer				W
Terence Gandy				W
Edgar Guest				SW
David Knight				E
Susan McCaffery				SW
Kevin Mesnard				W
Moirra Moore				E
Rod Rapley				W
James Shrubbs				E
Daphne Spencer				E
Trevor Stansfield				W
Dr.Hameed Ud-Din				SW
Pamela Went				W
Marion Wilson				E

CHAIRMAN: Cllr John Buchanan

TOWN CLERK: Helen Philpott
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