



Billericay Town Crier

November 2021

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

CENTENARY OF BILLERICAY WAR MEMORIAL

AFTER THE FIRST World War towns and villages all over the country expressed a desire to mark the fallen in some way. By 1920 this had reached a peak and in October of that year it was suggested that in Billericay the Memorial should take the form of a cross to be erected in the small enclosure adjoining the Church. By February of 1921 it was decided that a Public War Memorial Committee would be charged with the funding and erection of the memorial. Work to design and install the memorial was quick and it was ready in plenty of time before the third anniversary of the armistice.

On Sunday 16th October 1921 at 3 p.m. The War Memorial was unveiled by Major General Sir William Thwaites and Rev. S. L. Brown, the Rural Dean and Rector of Fryerning Parish Church, conducted the dedication Service. There was a guard of honour of 40 ex-servicemen under Regimental Sgt. Major J. W. Wheatley surrounding the Memorial.

On Saturday 16th October 2021 at 3 p.m. to celebrate the Centenary of this event a service was held in St Mary Magdalen in the High Street. This service conducted by Rev. Paul Carr followed the original order of service. At the end of the service in the church the whole congregation gathered around the War Memorial for the Commemoration and two minutes silence after the playing of the Last Post. Wreaths were then laid by Cllr. David Dadds, Mayor of Basildon, Cllr. Jim Devlin, Chairman of Billericay Town Council, and Brian Hughes, President of the Billericay Branch of the Royal British Legion; other wreaths and tributes were laid by members of families of the fallen.

The method by which the names appear on the Memorial is lost, but in common with the processes elsewhere it was probably up to relatives to put forward names of loved ones to the Committee. This explains why some names appear on more than one War Memorial in the area and that some of the men were not residents of Billericay before the war. In total there are 62 men remembered on the Billericay First World War Memorial including three pairs of brothers and a pair of cousins.

The War Memorial is a Grade II listed structure and the Town Council is the custodian.

MAYFLOWER 400 STATUE PROJECT

IN 2020 THE Town Council commissioned an artwork by the sculptor John Doubleday to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower sailing. The artwork was installed in Jim Shields Garden at the bottom of the High Street in November. There was much praise for the project, but residents and councillors felt it would be great if the Mayflower could be visible around the clock, so the

Town Council decided to install a spotlight to illuminate this amazing piece of artwork at night.

We are pleased to announce that the project is now finished and the spotlight has been installed. We would like to thank Bennetts Funeral Directors who made a financial contribution towards the installation of the light which has greatly enhanced this fantastic piece of art in the Town.



For further information and general enquiries contact: Town Clerk
Billericay Town Council • The Chantry Centre • Chantry Way • Billericay CM11 2AP
T: 01277 625732 • E: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk • W: 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.



BillericayTownCouncil



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

THANK YOU TO everyone who voted at the May 2021 Town Council elections and the Town Council East Ward by-election of 14 October 2021. At the May elections 15 Town Councillors were re-elected and 5 new Councillors were elected. The October by-election was necessary following a Town Councillor stepping down in July. Please welcome the Councillors who have joined the Town Council following the elections:



COUNCILLOR LAURA CLARK

Resident of Billericay for 14 years. Qualified Chartered accountant, working as a Finance Business Partner for a large Insurance company, in the city. Volunteered as a vaccine steward during the pandemic. Enjoys travelling, board games and spending time talking to residents in Billericay West and representing them on the council.



COUNCILLOR EDWARD SAINSBURY

I am a secondary school Teacher, part of Lake Meadows junior parkrun team and Scout Leader at 3rd Billericay. I enjoy chatting to residents and doing what I can to help our town, whether it is helping the vaccine rollout, pitching in with the Billericay Litter Pickers or supporting the foodbank!



COUNCILLOR CHRIS MAY

Retired in 2019 after a career in the NHS. Married to a Nurse. Three grown-up children all educated in Billericay. Resident in Queens Park for 35 years. Volunteers with Essex Wildlife Trust and Billericay Residents Association. Working hard to represent the residents of Billericay by listening to and acting on their concerns.



COUNCILLOR CHRIS SMITH

I have lived in Billericay for 52 years. Prior to retirement I worked in education rising to service management focusing on poor attendance and low self-esteem in primary and secondary settings, a rewarding experience. Member of the WI which includes supporting both the local and wider communities. Keen gardener and walker, taking pleasure in our local green areas.



COUNCILLOR MARTYN MORDECAI

I have been a resident of Billericay since 1986, during that time I have been the Chair of The Friends of Billericay School and School Governor. Having recently retired I stood for election at the last Council elections because I would like to continue to give something back to Billericay.



COUNCILLOR JIM TUTTON

Welcome back to Cllr Tutton after his by-election win on 14 October. He formerly served on Billericay Town Council for five years leading up to the May 2021 elections. Likewise Jim is glad to be able to serve the residents of Billericay and looks forward to working on the Town Council again.



BILLERICAY LITTER PICKERS

IN SEPTEMBER AND October Billericay Litter Pickers tackled the rubbish at the Festival Gardens, Sun Corner and elsewhere in our town. They are community spirited volunteers who help to keep our town clean and tidy. They have collected over 400 bags of rubbish since forming the group a few years ago. A **BIG** thank you from the Town Council. Please contact Vikki and Jon Gibbons via their Facebook page Billericay Litter Pickers if you wish to join their merry band of litter pickers.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS: THE FIRST 4 MONTHS AT THE CHANTRY CENTRE

THE TOWN COUNCIL moved to its new Chantry Centre premises on 31st December last year, but it was 5 months before Covid restrictions were relaxed enough to allow us to start taking bookings.

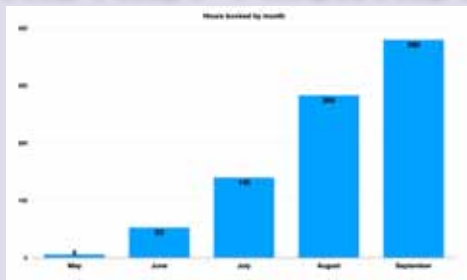
Rising steadily from an initial 10 hours in May, September has seen the facility host over 270 hours of activities for local residents. We are seeing increasing volumes of bookings, not only from commercial organisations (such as fitness classes and pop-up shops), but also from community groups as they begin once again to meet in person. By the end of September approximately 40% of the facility's use was by local volunteer-based groups. Financially, we are ahead of our budgeted income projection for the first year.

A wide range of activities are being delivered including those targeting social support, youth activities, entertainment, and those associated with general health & wellbeing and fitness.

The Town Council are especially pleased by the number of community activities focusing on tackling social isolation, a problem which increased significantly during lockdown. These include the Good Companions Club, a "Bump and Baby" coffee morning for new parents and a Sunday Matinee film show. During the summer holidays Active Essex delivered sessions for young people funded by Essex County Council, and groups including the Horticultural Society, Photofold Camera Club and the Gone Too Soon Bereavement Support group have become regular users.

Available for hire are 4 rooms which can take between 12 and 60 people. All are configurable depending on whether you are planning a lecture, a round table discussion or simply need the floor clear for an activity. We also have a large hall with full audio-visual equipment and screen and flexible format staging.

Charging is based on two rates. The Community Rate is for volunteer/not-for-profit/community groups and rooms are available for between £10 and £15 per hour, whilst the hall is £20/ hour. The Commercial Rate is for businesses and private hires with rooms available at £25 to £30/hour and the hall at £40/hour. A fully



Football



Camera Club

equipped kitchen is also available. Full details for booking can be found on the Town Council's website; BillericaTownCouncil.gov.uk – and click on "Chantry Centre". Our regular users from the community / not-for-profit area include:

Group	Activity	Contact
Gone to Soon	<i>Bereavement support for parents who have lost a child</i>	gone-too-soon.online
Photofold	<i>Camera club for the beginner to the experienced</i>	photofold.org.uk
Billericay Community Cinema	<i>Films twice a month – Thursday evening and Sunday Matinee</i>	BillericayCine.com
Good Companions	<i>Social club for seniors, twice a month offering company, entertainment, and tea</i>	
Billericay Horticultural Society	<i>To improve or update your skills in horticulture</i>	billericay-horticultural-society.co.uk
Billericay Lions	<i>A sociable group organising events, fundraising & giving back to the Community</i>	billericaylions.com
May Flowers WI Book Club	<i>Regular book club, a sub-group of the May Flowers WI</i>	Email mayflowerswi@gmail.com
Billericay Revival Church	<i>Church group</i>	revivalchurchbillericay.com



Zumba



RETURN OF THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

WE ARE DELIGHTED to welcome back the Billericay Good Companions, previous hirers of the old Day Centre. The Good Companions are a long-established social club for senior residents. Meeting twice a month they provide an hour's live entertainment (anything from light opera to magic!) and an afternoon tea creating a friendly environment for social interaction. The Basildon Community Transport minibus picks up those residents who cannot travel independently. Although many members hadn't seen each other for over 18 months at their first meeting in September there was a lovely atmosphere in the hall as they quickly got chatting and renewing friendships.



THE BILLERICAY YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

THE BILLERICAY YOUTH Town Council is looking to recruit new members so if you or someone you know is aged 11 to 18 years old and lives in Billericay or goes to a school in Billericay you could be eligible. The Youth Council meets twice a month on Tuesdays from 5pm to 6pm during term times at the Chantry Centre.

This is a great opportunity to meet with others from Billericay, work together with some of the societies to do things for the community, work with the Town Council and create your own enterprises. Past members have helped at the Christmas Lights Switch On, at the Soapbox Derby, held their own music nights, had a stall at the Summerfest and baked cakes to sell for Mothers' Day. They have also visited the Houses of Parliament, attended a Citizenship Ceremony at County Hall, had days at Stubbers Activity Centre, Upminster, and Rope Runners at the Secret Nuclear Bunker, Kelvedon Hatch.

These activities are varied and fun. They are led by the members, and all give very good experience for future careers, whatever they may be, and is always of interest to future employers.

If you are interested contact the Town Clerk at the Chantry Centre, 01277 625732.



THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY (QGC)

TO CELEBRATE HER Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 ("70 Years our Monarch") individuals are invited to plant a tree in their garden, schools to plant a Woodland Trust free tree pack in their school grounds and landowners to plant a copse or a woodland. The recommended planting window is from October 2021 to March 2022 inclusive. For detailed information please refer to queensgreencanopy.org/

The campaign will see communities, charities, schools, scout groups, councils and landowners planting trees across the four nations to create a lasting legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation that will enhance our environment and the landscape, for generations to come. The campaign will encourage the planting of healthy native trees that will thrive in their environments.

The global Covid-19 pandemic has generated a much greater public awareness of the need for green space. The Queen's Green Canopy will encourage people to come together with the common purpose of "greening" their local and national environments. Everyone is encouraged to take part in creating this special gift to Her Majesty by planting and celebrating, trees at home, and within their community, through their local Government or County programmes. The Patron of the QGC is His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Schools in our town, ranging from toddler groups through to primary schools, are invited to take part. Some may have land set-aside for tree planting and eco-projects. A few have already shown interest in the QGC initiative and are in dialogue with the Billericay Tree Wardens. Schools should contact billericaytreewardens@gmail.com if they wish to be involved.

The Billericay Tree Wardens believe that carbon capturing, wildlife-homing, rain-making trees will contribute to keeping our planet and climate in balance.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

THIS YEAR ONCE again Billericay Town Council will be organising Christmas lighting for our High Street. There will not be a formal Switch On, but the lights will be on over the weekend of the 20th/21st November. We hope this will bring some cheer to the High Street and we hope you will support our local retailers.

BILLERICAY FIRED-UP FOR THE PLATINUM JUBILEE



IN CELEBRATION OF the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we can all look forward to an extended bank holiday from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022. This will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. The 4 days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on the Queen's 70 years of service.

The UK's long tradition of celebrating Royal occasions with the lighting of beacons will be continued to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Beacons will be lit throughout the UK and Commonwealth, including Billericay's own Beacon at Sun Corner. The Billericay Beacon will be ignited shortly after 9pm on Thursday 2nd June 2022 as the climax of a celebratory event currently being planned by the Town Council.

Billericay will thus play its part in what promises to be an historic, moving, and enjoyable occasion. More details to follow but residents are encouraged to put the date in their 2022 diaries!

GRANTS

EACH YEAR THE Town Council allocates funds to support worthy projects by local community groups and September saw 3 grant applications approved. A total of £1,200 was split between the Billericay Parkrun (towards the cost of a new defibrillator), the Friends of Lake Meadows (to add new plants to the Rhododendron Garden whose construction the Town Council originally supported in 2015) and finally, to the Billericay Men's Shed. This is a new group who are converting a hut in Lake Meadows to create a place where people can pursue practical skills, share knowledge, and develop social connections. Men's Sheds help reduce loneliness and isolation – but most importantly they're fun. The group will become involved in community projects providing services such as repair, restoration, or construction.



Consultation on Future of the Automated Public Convenience

In 2007, following consultation with residents, the Town Council entered into a 15 year contract with Healthmatic PLC to provide an automated public facility (APC) which would be available to anyone visiting the High Street 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The toilet costs just under £20,000 p.a. to operate and the public are charged 20p per visit. The cost includes maintenance, servicing, cleaning, electricity and rental of the unit and the spaces it occupies in the car park. The contract is expiring in 2022 and therefore the Town Council is now seeking to consult with residents again before deciding what action to take. We ask that people completing the survey live within the boundary of Billericay. This is due to Question 7 and a possible increase in the precept.

Question 1

- Should Billericay Town Council provide public facilities within the Town?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 2

- Were you aware of the APC in the High Street car park behind Iceland/Santander?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 3

- Have you ever used this APC?

☐ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Rarely

☐ Never

Question 4

- How often do you use toilet facilities in the following locations:

(i) WAITROSE

☐

Daily

☐

Weekly

☐

Monthly

☐

Rarely

☐

Never

(ii) LAKE

☐

Daily

☐

Weekly

☐

Monthly

☐

Rarely

☐

Never

MEADOWS PARK

(iii) CAFES/

RESTAURANTS/

PUBLIC HOUSES

☐

Daily

☐

Weekly

☐

Monthly

☐

Rarely

☐

Never

(iv) COMMUNITY HALLS/

BUILDINGS

☐

Daily

☐

Weekly

☐

Monthly

☐

Rarely

☐

Never

Question 5

- Do you consider yourself disabled?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 6

- Are you the main carer for somebody that is vulnerable? This includes children and/or an adult

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 7

- Would you be willing to pay a one off rise in your council tax to pay for **new** toilet facilities in the town?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 8

- Please select what you feel is the best option for the Town Council to take regarding toilet provision in the town.

(A) Install a new automatic touchless single cubicle. This would require an increase in precept charge of approx. £3.60 per household at Band D for one year (a one-off cost to the Council of £57,000) and thereafter there would be a saving of approx. £6,300 per annum. ☐

(B) Retain the existing automatic toilet on a new contract at a saving of approx. £5,000 per annum ☐

(C) Remove the toilet facility completely with a saving of £10,000 in year 1 and £20,000 per annum thereafter. ☐

(all savings are from current Council spend)

After completing the consultation document please send it to: The Town Clerk, Billericay Town Council, Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, Billericay CM11 2AP. Alternatively, visit the Council's website at www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk where details on how to complete the consultation online can be found. The consultation closes on 30th November 2021.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE *(The Service starts at 10.50am)* HIGH STREET WAR MEMORIAL 14th NOVEMBER 2021

AS IN PREVIOUS years Billericay Town Council will arrange the closure of the High Street for Remembrance Sunday in Billericay, as this enables our local community to hold a Remembrance Parade. The High Street will be closed from Sun Corner to the junction with Western Road / Norsey Road from 10:15 until 11:45am. The public car parks will only be accessible before and after that time. The Parade will start from the Fire Station and proceed along Laindon Road, across Sun Corner, and up the High Street to the War Memorial where the Remembrance Service will be held.



GONE TOO SOON

GONE TOO SOON is a bereavement support group for parents who have lost a son or daughter of any age, in any circumstances and if recent or a while ago. Come along and meet other parents who can relate to how you feel after the loss of a child. You will be given a warm and friendly welcome in a safe environment. For further information, please give Lyn a call on 07387 805406 or alternatively; email: lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk www.gonetooonline

MAYFLOWER MORRIS MEN: AFTER LOCKDOWN

AS COVID RESTRICTIONS have been relaxed, the town's Morris side has begun to perform again and is rehearsing in St. Mary Magdalen in the High Street every Thursday at 8pm. If you play the accordion, anglo-concertina, violin, the pipe, and tabor or would like to dance why not come along and join us. Morris is easy to learn at the outset and it's a rewarding and enjoyable hobby, keeping fit and maintaining an English tradition. Morris in Billericay goes back to at least 1575. There's no subscription and tuition is free. All you need are two hankies (we provide the stick – you'll get plenty of that). If you'd like to be a part of our town's tradition contact us at Email: bagman@mayflowermorris.com Web: www.mayflowermorris.com

FILM SCREENINGS AT THE CHANCY CENTRE

FILM IS PROVING a popular attraction at the Chantry Centre.

The Billericay Community Cinema started regular screenings in the hall twice a month from July with a Thursday evening show and a Matinee for those who fancy a little company on a Sunday afternoon.

The Sunday Matinee is a new offering from the cinema but has quickly become established and is designed to reach the more isolated members of the community, featuring not only a film but "a cuppa, a slice of cake and a natter".

It's not only the community cinema showing films. Earlier in September the Billericay Lions' annual free concert for seniors was held in the Chantry Hall and this year featured a showing of "Singin' in the Rain". A packed hall enjoyed the film and were entertained by young musicians from the Phoenix Flames Orchestra during the interval whilst being treated to tea, coffee, and cakes.

Then in November we welcome The University of the Third Age (u3a) who will be starting their Film Club in one of our larger rooms using our large wall-mounted screens.



TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 2021

Tues 2	Planning
Thurs 11	Full Council
Tues 16	Planning
Tues 23	Health, Well-being & Env
Tues 30	Planning

DECEMBER 2021

Thurs 2	Finance & GP
Tues 14	Planning
Thurs 16	Full Council
Weds 29	Planning

JANUARY 2022

Tues 4	Health, Well-being & Env
Tues 11	Planning
Thurs 13	Finance & GP
Tues 25	Planning
Thurs 27	Full Council

FEBRUARY 2022

Tues 8	Planning
Tues 22	Planning

All meetings are open to the public and press and are held at The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, unless otherwise stated and start at 7.00pm.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Cllr A Adshead	29 The Meadow Way CM11 2HL	01277 632104	adam.adshead@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr J Clark	33 Carson Road CM11 1SA	01277 659842	jo.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr L Clark	c/o Chantry Centre	07902 979632	laura.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr R Clark	1 Wick Glen CM12 0HS	07802 425842	richard.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr M Dear	12 Redwing Drive CM11 2PG	01277 622499	marie.dear@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Devlin	231 Perry Street CM12 0NZ	01277 656937	jim.devlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Henshaw	46 The Avenue CM12 9HG	01277 625168	james.henshaw@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr Chris May	5 Devereux Way CM12 0YS	01277 627005	chris.may@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr M Moore	47 Laindon Road CM12 9LG	01277 627266	moira.moore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr K Mordecai	c/o Chantry Centre	01277 625732	kim.mordecai@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Mordecai	c/o Chantry Centre	01277 625732	martyn.mordecai@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Roessler	9 Second Avenue CM12 9PR	07760 373070	martin.roessler@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr E Sainsbury	17 Hares Chase CM12 0HJ	07517 362368	edward.sainsbury@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr C Smith	c/o Chantry Centre	01277 625732	christine.smith@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr D Spencer	Fir Tree Lodge 16 Back Lane CM4 9DG	01277 829750	daphne.spencer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr G Talbot	185 Perry Street CM12 0NX	07983 421686	gareth.talbot@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr A Talboys	c/o Chantry Centre	01277 657576	alan.talboys@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Thomas	39 Chestwood Close CM12 0PB	01277 650453	mark.thomas@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr Jim Tutton	11 Bluebell Wood CM12 0ES	01277 655443	jim.tutton@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr D Wakefield	4 Copford Road CM11 2DU	07980 373506	dan.wakefield@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
CHAIRMAN	Cllr Jim Devlin	Telephone:	01277 625732	
TOWN CLERK	Deborah Tonkiss Billericay Town Council The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way Billericay, Essex CM11 2AP	Email: Website:	townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	

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