Billericay Town Crier September 2022 www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL



Cllr Jim Devlin and Cllr Jo Clark

## **NEW TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

AT THE ANNUAL Town Council meeting on 5th May Cllr Jo Clark was elected Chairman of the Town Council and Cllr Martyn Mordecai was elected as Vice Chairman. Cllr Jim Devlin had decided to step down as Chairman of the Town Council after serving 7 years in the role.

Cllr Devlin has been the longest serving Chairman of the Council and said that one of the proudest achievements of the Council during his tenure had been taking on responsibility of the old Day Centre from Basildon Council and building a brand new community facility for the Town.

Cllr Jo Clark is the first female Chairman of the council since its formation in 1997.



# **CITIZENS OF THE YEAR 2022**

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL were pleased to announce the winners of the Billericay Citizen of the Year Competition at the Annual Town Meeting on 28 April. Congratulations to the very worthy winners **Emily Jackson Bridge** – Winner – Young Citizen of the Year.

Since 2020, Emily has been operating a "Pop Up Shop" outside her home in Perry Street fundraising for various charities. The attitude, dedication and generosity of this incredible young lady made her a very worthy winner.

**Ken & Eleanor Tout – Winners – Citizens of the Year.** Since 1992 Ken and Eleanor Tout have been running the Good Companions Club which provides a much needed social event twice a month for senior citizens. They do it all on a voluntary basis which makes their effort and dedication so impressive and inspiring. They are deserving winners of our Citizen of the Year Award.



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE NOVEMBER 13th 2022

AS IN PREVIOUS years Billericay Town Council will be responsible for the closure of the High Street on Remembrance

Sunday. 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 up Laindon Road, across Sun Corner, and up the High Street to the War Memorial where the Remembrance Service will be held.



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.

@BillericayTC

LOCAL COUNCIL

AWARD SCHEME

FOUNDATION





### STAFFING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CHANGES FOR CHANTRY

SINCE THE FORMATION of the Town Council in 1997, the running of the Council has been undertaken by two members of staff who carry out council decisions, fulfil statutory obligations and liaise with residents. However, it soon became clear that with the Chantry Centre now fully operational an additional pair of hands was needed to deal with the day to day running of the building. The Council is currently interviewing and we hope to have a new member of staff in situ by the end of September.

Another update to the way the Council works is that we are moving our IT to a Cloud based server. This will also give both staff and councillors access to Microsoft 365 and means we can utilise our server room in the Chantry Centre.

### NEW LITTER BINS FOR TOWN

THE HEALTH, WELL-BEING and Environment Committee recently decided to replace the Council's old yellow litter bins with smart new ones. You can find them at the following locations -Billericay station (two), Stock Road just before the medical centre, Queens Park on the roundabout by the bus stop and on the junction of Lake Avenue. We'd like to thank **Basildon Borough Council for** installing them free of charge and let's hope they get well used in keeping the town tidy and litter free.



# **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

THE TOWN COUNCIL will once again be installing festive lighting in the High Street to brighten up the gloomy winter days and cheer Christmas shoppers. The lights will be on from 25th November until 6th January and we'll also have the large Christmas tree outside the Chantry Centre which is a firm favourite with passers by, both young and old.



## **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

AS RESIDENTS KNOW the Town Council has provided colourful floral displays in the High Street for many years. Earlier this year high sided delivery vehicles knocked several baskets off their brackets causing a serious health and safety risk to both pedestrians and motorists, so the Council took the decision to remove them completely. However, the lamp columns are due to be replaced by Basildon Borough Council which gives us an ideal opportunity to source new, more secure fixings so that the hanging baskets can go up again in 2023. The War Memorial and pavement planters are still presenting a lovely display for shoppers and visitors to the town.

## **SKATEPARK UPDATE**

OFFICERS FROM BASILDON Borough Council were in Lake Meadows on 10th July to consult with residents and park users over their preferred design for the new skatepark. The feedback received was passed to the supplier to improve the designs and at the time of writing this article the finalised designs were awaited. The next stage is for planning consent to be obtained and it is expected that the skatepark will be

installed before the end of the financial year. The hardstanding at the old location is being removed and returned to grass by the Town Council as the new skatepark will be sited alongside the Multi Use Sports Area to the rear of the swimming pool.

The children's play area by the café in Lake Meadows is also scheduled for replacement by Basildon Council and work will be started on that in the autumn.



### BILLERICAY TOWN WALKS ARE BACK! SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER – START 2PM AT BILLERICAY STATION

AFTER A BREAK of 2 years the Town Council are pleased to announce that the Town Walks have made a comeback in 2022. Following a very well-attended walk in August led by Cllr Jim Devlin the second walk of 2022 will take place on Saturday 24th September.

The walk starts at 2pm from Billericay Station and lasts about 1 hour 30 minutes and is a fantastic way to learn about the many historic buildings in the High Street. Please telephone 01277 625732 or email townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk to book your place. Places are limited to 20 per walk so first come first served.

Should the Great British summer weather decide not to co-operate then we will notify of any cancellation via our Facebook page, Twitter and on our website so keep an eye out for updates.

## BARCLAYS BANK SESSIONS AT THE CHANTRY CENTRE MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 9AM – 5PM COMMENCING 31st AUGUST

RESIDENTS MAY BE aware of the High Street bank closures which have caused concern. Due to the concerns raised Barclays Bank has taken the decision to hire space in the Town Council Chantry Centre to ensure a presence in Billericay for at least the next 12 months. This commitment by Barclays has been made to the Government and has been received positively.

During the sessions at the Chantry Centre Barclays will provide facilities for both customers and non-customers to speak with Barclays staff members

and raise financial issues they may have. It is also intended that the sessions will provide residents with an opportunity to learn about digital banking, which is also known as online banking, avoid fraud and look out for scams.

The sessions will take place on Monday and Wednesday at 9am to 5pm starting from Wednesday 31st August. Information will be published in the branch and on Barclays's social media.

The Town Council welcomes this initiative by Barclays as it provides a much needed service to residents and will benefit the community.



Cllr Jo Clark & Citizens of the Year

### BEACON LIGHTING PLATINUM JUBILEE – 2ND JUNE 2022

ON THURSDAY 2nd June the beacon on Sun Corner was lit along with more than 2,000 others in recognition of The Queen's long and selfless service. The Billericay beacon was lit by Ken and Eleanor Tout, our Citizens of the Year and our Young Citizen of the Year Emily Jackson Bridge.

Providing music were High Voltage Brass Band and The Ladybirds choir. The Billericay Morris Men entertained the crowd after a welcome address by the Chairman of Billericay Town Council. There was a procession of the uniformed organisations represented by Billericay Air Cadets and the Army Cadet Force as well as the Scouts. Prior to the beacon lighting there was a reading from Reverend Paul Carr followed by a piper playing Diu Regnare and Majesty which was played by a bugler.

After the beacon was lit The Ladybirds sang "A life filled with Grace" which was a song written specially for the Jubilee. Jim Shrubb, the Town Crier, signified the end of proceedings by leading the crowd in a rousing call of three cheers for Her Majesty.

This event marked the start of a weekend in celebration of Her Majesty and a way of saying thank you for all her years of service.



ON SUNDAY 4th September the Town Council held its first Civic Service since the pandemic. The service was held in the Chantry Centre and was led by Andy and Jane Robb from the Revival Church. The Revival Church use Chantry for their fortnightly services so it was fitting that they conducted this special service of thanksgiving and dedication in their home environment. Town Council Chairman Jo Clark said how pleased she was that the Council were able to bring the community together by holding this event again.



#### WHY NOT JOIN OUR YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL?

BILLERICAY YOUTH TOWN Council held a summer social at Hackers on 19th July. As well as having fun playing mini golf and team building it was an opportunity to say goodbye to some long-standing members of the youth council who are heading off to start a new life chapter at university in the autumn. We wish Bethany and Oliver all the best with their studies and are sure they'll go on to do great things.

The Youth Town Council are now looking out for new members and anyone aged between 11-18 who lives or goes to school in Billericay can join. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month during term time so if you'd like to get involved just come along. The meetings are in the Chantry Centre between 5pm and 6pm. September dates are 6th, 20th and October dates are 4th and 18th. This is an opportunity for you to have a voice about what young people in Billericay want to see in their town. Please contact the Town Clerk if you'd like more information.



DO YOU WANT to set up a new community group? Perhaps a book reading club, support group, knitting circle, or youth group. The Town Council has a new grant option available to help you start. People who give their time to run local volunteer/not-for-profit groups providing activities, clubs and services in Billericay are valuable residents. Using the Chantry Centre to support these groups is one area where Billericay Town Council can make a real difference.

The Town Council already provides grants of up to £500 for community/ not-for-profit groups to spend on capital items but now we have a new initiative: a "Community Startup" scheme designed to support new volunteer groups in their early days.

Room hire in the Chantry Centre to the value of £100 covering the costs of 5 two hour meet-ings or the hall for 5 one hour sessions is available – giving you time to establish your group and funding sources. Starting up a new community group is hard work and one of the most challenging requirements is finding somewhere affordable to meet, often before you even have a bank account. Using our new Chantry Centre facilities allows us to help you "Build Community".



### ALLÉE DE BILLERICAY IN CHAUVIGNY

AS YOU CAN see from the signs as you enter Billericay, we have a twin town in France called Chauvigny. We have been twinned for nearly twenty years and this year, on Sunday 8 May, Gérard Herbert the Mayor of Chauvigny and Jeannine Watson from the Billericay Twinning Association (BTA) unveiled a plaque renaming one of the small streets in the centre of the town 'Allée de Billericay.'

Seven members of the BTA were present at the ceremony. This was the first visit to the town for four years because of the pandemic. The guests stayed with families – some have known each other for many years – and were very well looked after. There was a trip to the demarcation line between Vichy France and occupied France which passed very close to Chauvigny. Another visit was to Les Ormes which has a very interesting chateau and also a staging post (a Relais de Poste) set up in the late 18th century for the official mail between Paris and Bordeaux.

BTA is now looking forward to reciprocating and plans to welcome a group from Chauvigny in 2023. For more information about the association contact Janet, email janetcosgrove7@gmail.com



## ABBEYFIELD ARCHER HOUSE, LAINDON ROAD, BILLERICAY

ABBEYFIELD BILLERICAY 'Archer House' was purpose built and opened by the Princess Royal in 1986. It has 10 rooms and is situated near Emmanuel Church, the High Street, close to the main shopping area with all its amenities. We are part of the Abbeyfield group, a charity providing not-forprofit accommodation. Here, we make time for our residents, and enhance their lives by bringing everyone together in a warm and friendly, homefrom-home.

Each resident has their own room with private facilities, but can come together to share meals, company, and to enjoy a whole variety of activities.

If you or a family member would like more information, or would like to visit, please contact the House Manager on: 01277 626390 or contact us via: https://abbeyfield-archer-house.com/ Why not join us on: https://www.facebook.com/archerhousebillericay



### BRIGHTSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL – TREE PLANTING BY THE CHILDREN AND TREE WARDENS NEWS

PART OF THE Billericay Tree Warden's (BTW) remit is to plant the idea of trees and wildlife into the mindset of the young. So we have approached several local schools with a view to undertake a tree planting exercise for the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative. Although it has been inevitably hampered by the Covid-19 crisis, some headway has been made.

We had been in contact with the Head Teacher Mr Luke Bulpett and Teacher Mr Robert Crouchman of Brightside Primary School and discussed the logistics for 13 classes of 6 to 8 year olds to each plant a small tree within their school grounds on Wednesday 23rd March. So at 15 minute intervals, each class helped to add slow release fertilizer, then compost, plant the tree, carefully tamp about the base, attach the tree guard and stake before asking the Tree Wardens various questions about trees. We then discussed the aftercare required. Labels will be attached to each tree to identify the species and the class that planted it. Chosen species were: Oak; Silver Birch; Rowan: Hazel and a Scots Pine as a feature tree.

The weather and enthusiasm was perfect for such an event. Later we are to give a talk about trees and wildlife at assembly. We have discussed with Luke and Robert that there are other wildlife projects that we could engage the children with. The various tree species were sourced from the Norsey Wood tree nursery. The QGC event was a project run by the BTW's School team who hope to duplicate the project at other local schools. A big thank you to the Brightside Primary School for the hospitality shown to us and arranging the logistics involving 375 children.

News in Brief:-

**Responding to the Climate Crisis** – The Borough Council is forging ahead with significant tree planting schemes across the Borough. Two further areas that have been identified are at Lake Meadows and at the recreation area by Pleasant Drive. Our ecologist and Tree Warden member Nathan has been called upon to assist in the design of these schemes. **The Pilgrim Fathers** – The BTC and the Tree Wardens planted two cultivar Pilgrim Bramley apple trees in the town to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Fathers to America. These trees were vandalized on two occasions and after affecting a repair were given sanctuary at the ancient burial ground of the Great Burstead Church. The BTW can be contacted at billericaytreewardens@gmail.com

**CRAYS HILL ALLOTMENTS** 

SELF MANAGING PLOTS AVAILABLE INTERESTED – CALL TREVOR WASDALL 07908 259744





### BILLERICAY CHRISTMAS MARKET 4TH DECEMBER 2022

BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER ROTARY are delighted to announce this year's Christmas Market. The High Street will be closed to traffic from the early hours in anticipation of the arrival of over 150 stalls, and thousands of visitors who will be able to enjoy a wide range of family entertainment, as well as taking advantage of the many craft, farmers, food and drink stalls available, not forgetting the High Street shops, cafes, pubs, and restaurants.

This free event could not happen without the support of: Brentwood Rotary, Billericay Rotary, Billericay Town Rotary, Round Table, Lions, Scouts, Basildon Council, Billericay Town Council, and a relatively new group of supporters, Mayflower's 'Big Eventers', a team of like-minded individuals who are more than happy to help with our "big events."

Brentwood Rotarians will again be sending Father Christmas to star in the Market's opening parade at 11am, on his way to the free Santa's grotto in Chantry House. All surpluses from the event will be shared with worthy charities. Want to know more about Billericay Mayflower? Please go to: www.mayflowerrotary.org or contact secretary@mayflowerrotary.org and for more info on Billericay Christmas Market 2022: https://www.facebook. com/billericaychristmas



Morris Men at Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

## **BOYS' MORRIS DANCING**

OUR PRE-COVID attempt to start a Mayflower Morris Men boys' side in Billericay was scuppered by the lockdowns. We intend to revive the idea this October for boys aged 9-11 (School Years 5-6) or older (teenagers would attend the men's practice).

How recklessly the English discard their country's unique traditions; yet Morris dancing has a long history in our town from at least 1575 and we are determined to see it continue.

The steps, figures and music are passed down by word of mouth. Dancing requires co-ordination, The Morris man dances individually but symmetrically within a synchronized team. Its rewarding when you master it. There is also a strong bond of fellowship. Become a Morris Man and be a living part of a town's heritage and tradition.

Free tuition is provided by two police checked retired teachers in Billericay and parents may accompany if desired. If interested, look at our website www.mayflowermorris.com and e-mail us at bagman@ mayflowermorris.com for details of where and when.



## NEW CHARITY AIMS TO BETTER CONNECT BILLERICAY

HUMAN KIND IS Billericay's newly launched community charity, aiming to connect residents by helping combat loneliness and social isolation. The charity will also be opening a kindness cafe on Billericay high street in 2023. There was a warm welcome at the charity's inaugural session, where attendees benefited from befriending services and group activities, along with refreshments, board games and arts and crafts. The sessions are open to everyone and run every Wednesday, from 10am to midday at The Reading Rooms (73 High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9AS).

As a newly launched initiative, Human Kind is looking for your help to shape the charity and community sessions. If you have any ideas, suggestions or if you'd like to be involved, you can reach out to the friendly team at hello@humankindcafe.co.uk



kindness café, opening next year on the high st. Our aim is to help combat loneliness, and social isolation and connect the community. Right now, we'd love your help shaping the charity and community sessions. Any ideas, suggestions or if anyone wants to be involved, we'd love to hear from you at hello@humankindcafe.co.uk



CHANTRY CENTRE HIRE RATES – All charges are per hour						
ROOM	Community Rate	Commercial Rate	Party Charge			
MAIN HALL	£20	£40	£50			
COUNCIL CHAMBER	£15	£30	n/a			
MEETING ROOM 1	£10	£25	n/a			
MEETING ROOM 2	£10	£25	n/a			
MEETING ROOM 3	£10	£25	n/a			

#### ADOPT BILLERICAY STATION

IF YOU HAVE a couple of hours spare a week and enjoy gardening why not become a station adopter and volunteer at Billericay station. As an adopter looking after the station plants your efforts have a huge impact in making the station a welcoming, pleasant and attractive place. If you are interested or to find out more – get in touch at esscrp@essex.gov.uk



24 hour non-emergency number 101

www.essex.police.uk



#### SEPARATE FOOD & GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS COMING THIS OCTOBER

#### Starting from Monday 3 October

We want to become a carbon net zero place by 2050 and need your help to achieve this

From the week starting 3 October your separate food and garden waste service will begin.

Food waste will be collected weekly from your usual point on your usual day.

Garden waste will now be collected fortnightly from your usual point on the same day as glass recycling. Food waste will no longer be accepted in your green wheeled bin.

Basildon recycles



BasildonCouncil

#### TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

#### **SEPTEMBER 2022**

Tuesday 6	Planning
Tuesday 13	Health, Well Being & Env
Tuesday 20	Planning
Thursday 22	F&GP
Thursday 29	Full Council

#### **OCTOBER 2022**

Tuesday 4	Planning
Tuesday 18	Planning
Tuesday 22	Health, Well Being & Env

#### NOVEMBER 2022 Tuesday 1 Planning

Tuesday 1	Planning
Thursday 3	F&GP
Thursday 10	Full Council
Tuesday 15	Planning
Tuesday 22	Health, Well Being & Env
Tuesday 29	Planning

#### DECEMBER 2022

Thursday 1F&GPTuesday 13PlanningThursday 15Full CouncilWednesday 28Planning

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			
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