



Billericay Town Crier

YOUR QUALITY COUNCIL

January 2015

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

@BillericayTC



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

On Saturday, November 29th, Christmas came to Billericay. As usual the annual Christmas Lights Switch On took place in the High Street outside The Chequers public house. This year the weather was very kind to us and the turnout was the best ever.

The Salvation Army came to lead the event and entertain us with Christmas songs and carols. They were later joined by members of the Billericay Youth Council looking very good in their various festive costumes who helped to lead the singalong. They had previously been giving out balloons to the children in the High Street.

Our Town Crier, Jim Shrubbs was there in full voice ringing his bell and leading the proceedings along with Father Christmas who came to switch on the lights but he had also brought along a few sweets for the children and was only too pleased to have his photograph taken with those who wished to. Once again we had snow just at the right moment courtesy of The Chequers creating a magical moment.

Christmas Lights wouldn't be the same without behind the scenes panic. As we found out that morning the electricity had been cut off the day before to the two main lights and some of you may have been aware of us trying to sort this out before the switch on, but thanks to our great engineers they were able to work something out for the event.

*Jo Clark – Vice Chairman
Billericay Town Council /
Chairman Christmas Lights*



BEST SHOP WINDOW 2014

The best dressed shop window competition was judged on 8th December by Councillors John Buchanan and Jo Clark, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Town Council. They were accompanied on the judging round by four Youth Town councillors, Harrison Birch, Tahlia Brown, Sam Hutchinson and Jack Morrison. Well done to the Gift Box for repeating their success of last year and again they chose St Francis Hospice to receive their prize of a £100 donation to charity. The Town Council runs this event to encourage the shops to create attractive displays and help lure visitors to the High Street during the busy run up to Christmas. The highly commended winners were Barnados, Billericay Blinds, Farrers Funeral Directors, Hamelin Trust and The Olive Branch.



Karen Letchford from The Gift Box presenting the cheque to Gerry Clover from St Francis Hospice. Also in attendance were John Buchanan and Jo Clark from Billericay Town Council, Harrison Birch and Tahlia Brown from Billericay Youth Town Council.

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 - 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.

WINTER IN BILLERICAY



Unlike most people's perceptions of Essex, Billericay has some very steep hills. Essex County Council provides a gritting service for major roads around the Town but side roads can be badly affected by frost and snow. Every year the Town Council, in partnership with ECC, distributes free bags of salt to householders so that they treat problem roads and footways in their neighbourhood. In October this year the Town Council handed out 80 bags of salt (two tonnes in total) to those residents who, from past experience, wanted to be able to deal with any potential problems this winter. Please note that salt provided free of charge by the Council is intended for use on roads and footways (not private drives or paths).

Now that County no longer installs new salt bins, Billericay Town Council has stepped into the breach and this year has provided six new bins complete with salt at various locations. We are looking at the possibility of providing further bins next year. Any resident who wishes to suggest a suitable site should contact the Town Clerk.

Clr Ian Davie – Chairman, Planning Committee and Salt Bins Working Party



When the Town Council became aware there was a threat to the wonderful walnut tree in Chantry Chase, the lane between Raven's Bakery and The Chequers, it took action. The walnut tree is in the Conservation Area of our town providing a beautiful visual amenity. Its canopy has a long history of reaching a protective shade over the area and residents can remember collecting the walnuts that fell nearby. There are few trees in the town centre and the walnut tree is an unusual variety which is uniquely situated. On these grounds the Town Council contacted Basildon Borough Council's Arboriculturalist Officers who speedily placed a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the walnut tree. The TPO will protect the tree as any pruning or cutting must now be the subject of a Planning Application which will give the Town Council and residents the opportunity to object to any unnecessary damage to the tree. The Town Council will keep a watchful eye and do all it can to protect this splendid walnut tree.

COMMUNITY WEEKEND & CIVIC SERVICE



THE Town Council are pleased to announce that in conjunction with Churches Together in Billericay another Community Weekend has been set for Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March and various community events will be held in and around

Billericay, including another walk leaflet launch and High Street Litter Pick from the Town Council. The weekend will culminate with a Civic Service at Emmanuel Church which is being held on the Sunday at 3pm.

Lord Petre, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex will be there and all residents are most welcome to attend.

RHODODENDRON WALK AT LAKE MEADOWS



BILLERICAY Town Council have been working in partnership with Basildon Borough Council for some time to improve and enhance Lake Meadows for the benefit of residents and visitors that use this beautiful park in the heart of our town.

We are currently collaborating on a project with Basildon Council and RHS Hyde Hall that will see the shrubbery area located alongside the path leading up to the Lake Avenue entrance turned into a rhododendron walk. Once fully planted, it is expected that the area, which is some 80 metres in length, will be bursting with a variety of colour throughout the Spring and will be a long term sustainable asset for the Park.

BYTC

Youth Town Council

The Youth Council now has 21 members, 6 from Mayflower School and 15 from Billericay School. We're an enthusiastic group, full of ideas and suggestions for how we can help the community and the type of events we can organise for the young people of Billericay. We've already laid a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, formed an impromptu choir for the Christmas Lights Switch On and helped to judge the Best Shop Window Competition. This year we are hoping to once again stage an Urban Games Event at Lake Meadows in July.

The Youth Council officers for 2014-15 are: Chairman; Harrison Birch, Vice-Chairman; Ellis Sullivan; Treasurer; Sam Hutchinson and Vice-Chairman; Ellie Nightingale.



BILLERICAY YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Mother's Day Craft and Gift Event

Come along to the Reading Rooms on Saturday 14th March @ 2pm to make/purchase a lovely gift for your mum.

Free Entry: Cost £5 per child for materials and refreshments will be available

For further details contact the Town Council office on 01277 625732



communitynews



Dan Bunce and Cllr Jim Devlin, Community First Responders (in yellow jackets) Bruce Bott, Maureen and David Bowles, Street Pastors.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

Thanks to great fundraising efforts by the Street Pastors, Billericay now has two public defibrillators in the High Street. One is by the front entrance to the Police Station and the other is situated in the old red telephone box outside Connells.

This will add to the public safety in the High Street area because should anyone suffer a heart attack the person calling an ambulance will be given a code to open the security boxes and can send someone to get the defib.

This will mean that lifesaving treatment can be given quicker than would be possible from an ambulance, paramedic car or local Community First Responder.

These defibrillators are designed for use by untrained people and give instructions for use through a small video screen and voice commands. They will only operate if the patient requires defibrillation.



OLD BILLERICAY

BURSTEAD House pre 1939 when it was the Burstead House Temperance Hotel. This 16th century building sat on the site which now has the parade of shops containing Poundland. It was replaced by Hensman's, the Ford Dealers in the 1950s which was demolished in the 1970s to make way for the building we see today. Many more old photos of Billericay are available on the Billericay Community Archive website www.billericayhistory.org.uk



FRIENDS OF LAKE MEADOWS

To kick off 2015 there are currently 2 Friends of Lake Meadows community competitions running. We would like families to make scarecrows ready to protect the new wildflower seeds when they are planted in the Wildflower Walk. The closing date for this competition is 28th February. There is a prize for every scarecrow entered! The photography competition is running until June 30th.

The beautiful Olive Tree of Peace, planted to commemorate WW1, and funded by the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower, is establishing itself and we look forward to the installation of the circular seat around it. We hope this will become a place of quiet contemplation for many local residents in the years to come.

In addition Billericay Town Council has generously provided funding for two oak trees, tree labels, tree trail maps, metal storage racking, garden tools and equipment, leaflets and engraved plaques.

The Friends have many ideas and plans for 2015 and a warm welcome awaits anybody who would like to join us at any time.



MAYFLOWER MORRIS MEN OF BILLERICAY

The Mayflower Morris Men is a revival "side" formed in 1973 to dance the Morris in and around Billericay, Essex, to learn new dances, and to maintain the traditions of the Morris.

Why Morris-dance? Well, it's good company, good exercise, gives something back to the community, keeps an English tradition alive, is all-age friendly, and is enjoyment personified!

We dance at pubs and fêtes throughout the summer, besides a May Day Tour, a St. George's Day Mummers' Play, and displays at the traditional times of year. The side is easy-going and sociable and comes from all walks of life. New dancers/musicians are always welcome.

We practise at St. Mary Magdalen Church in the High Street on Thursdays at 8 p.m.; two left feet and a pulse are all you need (but you must be male and you do need a pair of handkerchiefs!). There is no subscription and tuition is free, so if you fancy helping to keep a little bit of Old England alive, why not give it a go? You'll be made most welcome!

Contact: Geoff Douglas T: 01277 650631 Email: bagman@mayflowermorris.com Website: www.mayflowermorris.com

CONTACT THE ELDERLY – BILLERICAY

CONTACT the Elderly was started in 1965 by Trevor Lyttleton, Founder & Chairman. We have 560 groups nationwide, over 5,200 volunteers and we take out 3,700 elderly people every month.

Contact the Elderly are now setting up their 12th Essex group in Billericay. We have a volunteer Co-ordinator and need a few more local hosts who are prepared to host a tea party once or twice a year.

We take out to tea, once a month, 12 months a year, local isolated elderly people, aged 75 and over. This regular monthly outing makes a huge difference to the life of an isolated person and gives them something to look forward to. New elderly applications are most welcome and we have vacancies at the moment.

If you would like to make a difference in your community and enjoy a very happy tea party once a month, please contact:-

Suzan Hyland

National Volunteer Support Officer – Contact the Elderly

Tele: 0207 881 2361

Email: suzan.hyland@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

Website: www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS! BILLERICAY WI CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to the Billericay Branch of the Women's Institute who celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the organisation this year. Billericay also has the honour of being the longest established branch in the country.



BEER BOTTLES AT THE WAR MEMORIAL



streetbank

share things with your neighbours

This is your invitation to join Streetbank.com, a website that shows all the things and skills our neighbours in Billericay could offer to lend or give away.

You'll find anything from jam jars, paperbacks and DVDs to gardening, ironing, dog walking and heavy lifting.

It's one of The Times' 50 websites you can't live without. More importantly, it's good for the community, the environment and should make you feel good too!

If you are interested get your free Streetbank account at www.streetbank.com



ESSEX ENERGY SWITCH

EARLIER this year thousands of households and businesses signed up to participate in the Essex Energy Switch. It helped many people reduce their gas and electricity bills at a time of rising energy prices – with an average saving of £200 per year. Residents are now being offered another chance to make sizable savings on their gas and electricity bills.

Residents have until 2nd February 2015 to register their interest (without any obligation) at www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch It is a completely free, easy, safe and secure way to cut their energy bill without wasting valuable time endlessly comparing prices on comparison sites. This year we hope that even more residents will benefit from making the switch

This is a fantastic opportunity to help householders and small businesses to save money without obligation in a safe, secure and proven manner.

Essex Energy Switch



You may have noticed that some time after the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 9th of November six Beck's beer bottles appeared at the War Memorial. On closer inspection these were a modern day form of remembrance as each bottle had a name written on them. The Billericay Community Archive undertook the task of following up on this and discovered that each of the names related to men of the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment who were serving in Afghanistan in the years 2009-2012. The men remembered were:

- Lance Corporal Adam Drane** killed 8th December 2009
- Private Robert Hayes** killed 5th January 2010
- Lance Corporal Scott Hardy** killed 18th March 2010
- Lance Corporal James Grigg** killed 18th March 2010
- Corporal Alex Guy** killed 16th June 2012 and
- Captain Martin Driver** who died of wounds 17th March 2010 in Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham.

None of the men were local, although Scott Hardy was from Chelmsford. It is gratifying that these tributes were left in place until Christmas. Further details on the men can be found at www.billericayhistory.org.uk

INFORMATION FROM ESSEX POLICE

Essex Police are advising people to register identifiable items and possessions at www.immobilise.com. This is a free service where members of the public and businesses can register their details on the site and list all of their possessions as long as they are identifiable by a unique reference number for example IMEI number, serial number, bicycle frame number etc.

It takes only a minute or two to register and listing individual items is very quick too, meaning that a household could list all of their identifiable items within just a few minutes.

If items are subsequently stolen you can click on the relevant pre-registered item and it will immediately be recorded on the site as stolen.

Alternatively if an item is stolen but has not previously been registered by you it can be registered as stolen providing the unique reference number is known.



WHO DOES WHAT?

THE Town Council office often gets calls from Billericay residents about issues they are experiencing, or queries they may have, which are the responsibility of other authorities such as Basildon Borough Council or Essex County Council.

To make life easier, we have prepared a "Cut Out and Keep" listing below of all the relevant contacts you might need for the things we get asked about most:

BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

REFUSE COLLECTION • STREET CLEANING

OVERGROWN VEGETATION • PARKS

COUNCIL TAX • LICENSING

SOCIAL HOUSING • PLANNING

Telephone Customer Service Centre on 01268 533333

or go to www.basildon.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS • STREET LIGHTING

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS • BLUE BADGES

LIBRARIES • BUS PASSES

GRITTING OF ROADS

Telephone: 08457 430 430 or online at www.essex.gov.uk

SOUTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP

PARKING PERMITS • FINES/ENFORCEMENT

Telephone: 01245 606710 or email: parking@chelmsford.gov.uk

ESSEX POLICE

24 hour non-emergency number 101

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 2015

Tuesday 10th Planning

Thursday 19th Town Council

Tuesday 24th Planning

MARCH 2015

Tuesday 3rd Environment

Tuesday 10th Planning

Thursday 12th Finance & GP

Tuesday 24th Planning

Thursday 26th Town Council

APRIL 2015

Tuesday 7th Planning

Tuesday 14th Environment

Tuesday 21st Planning

Thursday 23rd Finance & GP

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.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Adam Adshead	29 The Meadow Way, Billericay, CM11 2HL	07976 049523	adam.adhsead@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	
Tina Arnold	c/o Billericay Town Council	07806 612662	tina.arnold@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
John Bellringer	100 Church Street, Great Burstead, CM11 2TS	01277 650118	john.bellringer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Peter Bowditch	18 Cranmer Close, Billericay, CM12 0YQ	01277 659530	peter.bowditch@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Tony Bown	76 Western Road, Billericay, CM12 9DT	01277 625732	tony.bown@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
John Buchanan	72 Meadow Rise, Billericay, CM11 2EF	01277 656715	john.buchanan@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Robert Chapman	99 Church Street, Billericay, CM11 2TS	01277 657696	robert.chapman@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Jo Clark	33 Carson Road, Billericay, CM11 1SA	01277 659842	jo.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Ian Davie	51 Tye Common Road, Billericay, CM12 9NR	01277 656139	ian.davie@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Marie Dear	12 Redwing Drive, Billericay, CM11 2PG	01277 625732	marie.dear@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Jim Devlin	231 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0NZ	01277 656937	jim.devlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Colin Dyer	6 Montpelier Close, Billericay, CM12 0UH	01277 625732	colin.dyer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Susan McCaffery	25 The Rising, Billericay, CM11 2HN	01277 625732	susan.mccaffery@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Moira Moore	47 Laindon Road, Billericay, CM12 9LG	01277 627266	moira.moore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Rod Rapley	43 Crescent Road, Billericay, CM12 0JQ	01277 622125	rod.rapley@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Daphne Spencer	Fir Tree Lodge, 16 Back Lane, Stock, CM4 9DG	01277 829750	daphne.spencer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Trevor Stansfield	174 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0NX	01277 623519	trevor.stansfield@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Pamela Went	4 The Mullions, Billericay, CM12 9XG	01277 658961	pamela.went@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Emma Willis	5 Bluebell Wood, Billericay, CM12 0ES	01277 625732	emma.willis@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Marion Wilson	25 Parklands, Billericay, CM11 1AS	01277 626321	marion.wilson@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
CHAIRMAN:	Cllr John Buchanan			
TOWN CLERK:	Deborah Tonkiss Billericay Town Council The Loft, Crown Yard, High Street Billericay, Essex CM12 9BX	Telephone: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	01277 625732 01277 634784 townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	

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