



Billericay Town Crier

October 2015

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

@BillericayTC

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Billericay Town Council is pleased to announce that Christmas is coming to Billericay on Saturday, November 28th with its Celebration of Christmas Lights.

This year we have ventured into pastures new. As we no longer have the support of Essex Police to help control the traffic and to stop people stepping into the road we have taken the decision to close part of the High Street. Following last year's experience of larger than ever crowds it was felt this was necessary in the interests of public safety. The High Street will be closed from 12 midday to 6pm from Western Road to Rose Lane.

There will be an afternoon of varied entertainment showing off local talent starting from 3pm. This will include High Voltage Big Band, the Wickford Majorettes, Mayflower Morris Men, Woodlands School Choir, St. Peter's School Choir, Dance Steps Academy and Mayflower High School Choir. This will all culminate in the switch on of the lights at 4.30 pm by our very special guest, Father Christmas, **and it's all FREE.**

Hopefully the programme will appeal to young and old so do come and join us in the High Street, browse the shops, drop in on the cafes, restaurants and pubs and most of all enjoy the afternoon's entertainment and get into the spirit of Christmas.

Also, to make sure that the High Street shop windows all look bright and festive we will be holding our Best Dressed Shop Window Competition again this year. No entry forms are required as members of our Youth Council, along with Town Councillors select the best window during a walkabout in the week following the Christmas Lights switch on. Every business in the High Street will be considered if their premises display a Christmas theme. The winner will be presented with a cheque for £100 to donate to a charity of their choosing.

LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

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.

CLLR. TONY BOWN



IT was with deep sadness that members of the council learnt of the death of Cllr. Tony Bown in early August. Cllr. Bown was a larger than life character who had added membership of Billericay Town Council to his many other civic appointments at the elections in 2012.

His many legal qualifications made him a leading figure in the City of London, where he was involved in all aspects of "Blue

Chip" business, working at the senior level of numerous banking and credit card services.

As with all his other activities, Cllr. Bown made a committed and effective contribution to the town council, including to the events surrounding the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and to the Finance & General Purposes Committee of which he was a member.

A service of thanksgiving for his life will be held at 12.30pm on 24th November at Emmanuel Church, Laindon Road, which would have been his 56th birthday.

The vacancy on the town council created by Cllr. Bown's death was due to be filled by co-option at the Council meeting on 29th October. Refer to the council's web site for news of the new town councillor.



ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST – LIVING LANDSCAPES AWARD

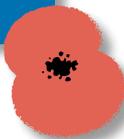
Billericay Town Council are pleased to announce that our Series 2 Countryside Walks leaflet recently received an award from Essex Wildlife Trust. The photograph above shows Cllr Susan McCaffery being presented with the award by Iolo Williams, from BBC's Springwatch. The leaflets are available from the Town Council offices, Billericay library and Essex Wildlife Trust centres.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

PARADE

8th November 2015

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Billericay Town Council are taking over the closure of the road for Remembrance Sunday in Billericay as Essex Police have announced they are no longer going to assist

the organisers of Remembrance Parades in performing this function.

Billericay Town Council Chairman Jim Devlin said that "Town Councillors are hugely disappointed by the decision of Essex Police to no longer assist with stopping traffic whilst wreaths are laid on Remembrance Sunday. This is an important event of national significance and the fact is that Essex Police are forcing local councils with very limited budgets to undertake all that a road closure involves at very short notice. Without the support of town and parish councils stepping up to offer financial and administrative assistance to Royal British Legion branches across Essex, many Remembrance Day parades would simply not be able to take place."

This year is especially significant for Billericay's Royal British Legion branch as Lord Petre is taking the salute and they want the event to run smoothly with the minimum of fuss. 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.

Dedication of the War Memorial



STOP PRESS

– Since this article was written Co-Operative Funeral Care in Billericay High Street have offered financial support.

HERE IT IS AGAIN!

In the next few days our new edition of the Town Guide, our ninth, will be popping through your letter box.

In it you will find all you need to know about what is happening in Billericay from the work of the Town Council to information about the dozens of clubs and societies that thrive in the town.

We have grouped the clubs and societies in the Arts and Craft sections under headings such as Music, Drama etc to make it easier for you to find what you are looking for.

There's some history too and we would like your help in telling us more about some of the people commemorated in the town benches in the High Street. With some we have the name but nothing else and it would be nice to know who they were and why they have a bench in their name.

Information about schools, medical services and churches is provided and we even suggest interesting places for a day out. It all goes to show that **BILLERICAY IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE.**

If you do not receive your copy in the next week you can pick one up from the Town Council offices.





Chairman Jim Devlin officially opens The Hub

TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN OFFICIALLY OPENS THE HAMELIN TRUST "HUB"



Jim Devlin, the Town Council Chairman, was honoured to cut the ribbon at the official launch of The Hub in Radford Crescent on Friday 18th September. The Hub is the retail and training base

for Hamelin Trust, a local charity supporting children and adults with disabilities based in Billericay. The retail shop is a replacement for the High Street charity shop.

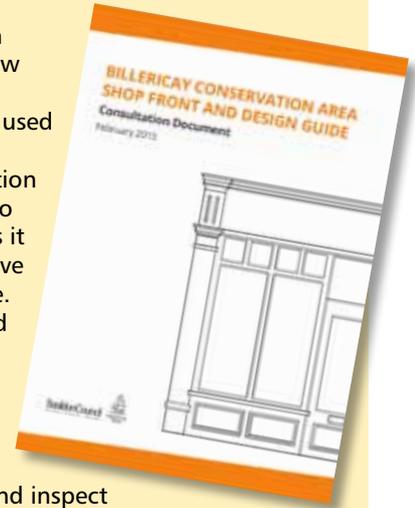
After the opening ceremony he visited the workshops and saw the work being carried out in training projects. Hamelin Trust recycle computers on site and either refurbish them for resale or dismantle them for parts. There is also a workshop which refurbishes donated furniture so that it can achieve a better sale price in the shop as well as making small items that can be sold; a textile workshop recycles and refurbishes all sorts of clothing. All this work is carried out by disabled adults and training is provided to help them make the most of their lives. "I was very impressed with the work carried out and the obvious enjoyment and fulfilment that those working there were getting out of this work" said Cllr. Devlin. The tour also included a look at the area used by the more severely disabled including the sensory room.

Cllr Devlin said "I was not only impressed by the marvellous work done by the Hamelin Trust but also by the environmental advantages that The Hub achieves". Adults are supported by the Trust in projects where they can gain transferrable work related skills, achieve accredited training and have a positive impact on reducing waste being tipped into landfill.

Hamelin Trust are currently recruiting volunteers to join their team, for more information contact Maria Sims on 01277 653889, option 3. The charity shop is now open at The Hub, 19 Radford Crescent, CM12 0DU where you can pick up wonderful bargains.

BILLERICAY CONSERVATION AREA SHOP FRONT & DESIGN GUIDE

This document, which the Town Council produced in conjunction with BBC has now been adopted by Basildon Borough Council and will be used when determining planning applications in the Conservation Area. The document is vital to the character of the town, as it will help protect what we have in the buildings that are here. The Guide can be viewed and downloaded on Basildon Borough Council's website www.basildon.gov.uk. A copy is also available in the Town Council offices which residents may come and inspect during opening hours.



PLANT A SHRUB at THE FESTIVAL GARDENS



WHO could have foreseen that a small item in the last edition of the Town Crier would have generated over 30 enquiries for our Plant a Shrub event planned for this autumn! This is surely a testament to all the hard work that the Town Council has put into maintaining and improving the Festival Gardens. Never before had such a large number of residents wanted to commemorate a loved one in this way and we anticipated a few drop outs, but there weren't many! A total of 29 shrubs were planted, which meant a bit of forward thinking and discussions with our contractors to work out the best locations for them all. In the end two sites were identified. At the top of the first set of steps near the plinth and at the lower end of the garden underneath the trees. Skippers Ground Maintenance worked hard to get the beds cleared and ready for planting and also provided a wonderful array of shrubs for the participants to choose from. At 2pm, on a dry October afternoon, people assembled in the Festival Gardens. After a brief introduction and welcome from the Town Council Chairman, Jim Devlin, people undertook the planting of their shrubs. Everyone also received a copy of the certificate which is kept in the Book of Remembrance in the Town Council offices. Afterwards, many people commented on what a lovely event it had been and how much it meant to them being able to commemorate a loved one in such beautiful surroundings. It is hoped that the newly planted shrubs will now thrive and further enhance this very special green space in the centre of Billericay. If you haven't visited the gardens why not pop along and have a look for yourself?

KICKING OFF THE AUTUMN SEASON WITH GRANTS TO BENEFIT OUR TOWN

The Town Council is delighted to announce a sponsorship grant to Billericay Town Football Club Under 16's Team. We recognise the importance of encouraging our youth to take part in sport where team skills and social skills are promoted. This sponsorship opportunity is through our £900 grant towards the Under 16's Team football shirts. Cheer them on when they play as their shirts now bear the Billericay Town Council logo. The team will be excellent youth ambassadors for their sport and our town.

We are also proud to report we have granted £100 to Essex Air Ambulance as this service is vital to residents for speedy attendance at incidents and transport to hospital. While awarding grants we consider the wider benefits and have awarded a £1,000 grant, in principle, to Christ Church, Perry Street, for essential repairs as many community events take place there.



Team Captain Will Putt with Manager Mick Jacobs

BYTC YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

On the last day of term both the Mayflower and Billericay schools finished early which gave us the opportunity to assemble at the Town Council offices for a visit to the Houses of Parliament accompanied by members of the Town Council. This tour was arranged by the Town Clerk with help from the staff of our local M.P., John Baron.

We travelled by train and tube up to London, where a short walk from the station brought us to the imposing edifice that is the Palace of Westminster. After showing our tour permit and passing through the same type of security encountered in airports, we were inside the most amazing and historic building. You can almost feel the history oozing from within the walls. Each group is allocated a tour guide who takes you through both the House of Commons and House of Lords. We learnt many fascinating facts about the building and the traditions surrounding what takes place inside. Both chambers are a lot smaller than they look on the television, and you are not permitted to sit down in certain areas unless you are either an M.P. or a Peer! Some of us enjoyed the tour so much that it left us with aspirations to enter the world of politics. To round off a brilliant day, when we got back to the Town

Waiting to enter the Houses of Parliament



With local M.P. John Baron

Council office John Baron MP was there attending a meeting which gave us an excellent photo opportunity and the chance to chat to him about our impressions of his "workplace".



communitynews

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The United Reform Church are holding an Autumn Bazaar on Saturday 14th November from 10am-1pm at the Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street. There will be stalls featuring jewellery, toys, cakes, toiletries, bric-a-brac, books and DVDs, plus a tombola, refreshments and much more. Pop in for a look and grab yourself a bargain.

The Essex Police Choir are presenting a "feelgood evening" of light music, including songs from Phantom of the Opera and Miss Saigon. This will take place on Saturday 14th November at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church in Chapel Street, Billericay. Tickets cost £10 and all proceeds raised will go to the South Essex Link who help to provide a holiday each year for children living in the areas worst affected by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. For more information contact Susan Craig-Greene via email scraiggreene@yahoo.com.



BUS CONSULTATION

BUS services in this area are provided in two different ways. There are those operated on a commercial basis by bus companies, such as First Buses and NIBS, and there are those which are paid for by you and me, the council tax payer, and contracted out to the bus companies by Essex County Council.

To the passenger, it's impossible to tell the difference. You get on the bus, pay the fare or show your pass, and that's it.

However, for those services contracted by ECC, it makes sense that we get value for money as tax payers, and the county council have set the threshold at £5 per passenger journey. That means that if it costs the council more than £5 when you catch the bus, it is too expensive. It means not enough people are catching that bus, and consideration has to be given as to whether to go on subsidising it.

One of our town councillors attended a function in Basildon earlier this year and decided to come back by bus. He caught the 101 bus from Basildon just after 8.30pm. He was the only passenger on the bus, which took him non-stop to within 20 yards of his front door. Very convenient, but perhaps not very cost effective use of a 50 seater bus.

Essex County Council have just completed a county-wide study into the way people are using the publicly funded services, and the Town Council's Passenger Transport Representative, Cllr. John Buchanan, participated in this study. For 4 weeks in September and October a consultation on the proposed changes was undertaken, and Cllr. Buchanan alerted local residents affected by proposed changes to the service 256 from Billericay to Basildon via Little Burstead, in order that responses could be made to the unacceptable timetable alterations.

It remains to be seen whether County Council will take any notice.



Focus on Local Charities



St. Luke's Hospice was co-founded by Trudy and Les Cox in 1983. All our staff and volunteers truly make

St. Luke's Hospice the very special place it is. They are essential to delivering the Hospice's caring mission. All our teams share a passion and commitment towards the ethos and, success of St. Luke's. They are many different people, from many walks of life that are reflective of the community we serve. The latest service to be launched is 'OneResponse' a 24/7 365 day support, assessment and advice service for people with palliative and end of life care needs. It costs almost £4.3m per year to run all our services. Although receiving some support from the Clinical Commissioning Groups (NHS) Local Primary Care Trust a large proportion of the funds have to be raised directly by St. Luke's. The St. Luke's Hospice aims to provide the highest standards of care for people who have specialist palliative care needs and live in the Basildon & Thurrock districts. During the 25 years since St. Luke's opened, much has changed and the hospice has adapted, increased and improved services in line with factors beyond our control such as dips in the economy, new legislation and the greater public need. One thing has, however, remained constant and that is the amazing support we receive from the community we serve. We are 'here for you and because of you' and we are truly grateful for all your support.

BILLERICAY CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sunday 6 December 11.00-17.00

In an incredible day of **FREE** entertainment, food and fun, Billericay will again be opening its High Street to families on December 6th for six hours of relaxed Christmas shopping, and there won't be a car in sight, as the High Street is closed to traffic for the duration of the Market.

Billericay Mayflower Rotarians who have organised the annual Sunday Christmas Market for six years, and a midweek fun night over the previous 13 years, have been working for 12 months to prepare this year's event. It is hailed as a major landmark on the Essex scene leading up to Christmas.

There will be 130 stalls ranging from international food outlets to local charities, and they will pack every spare space adding to the attractions as almost every shop and some offices will be open for business.

Local bands and talented singers will entertain the crowds from mobile stages alongside impromptu flash mobs dancing the day away at vantage points along the street. A fairground, donkey rides and, of course, Santa and his grotto will add to the attractions as local crowds are joined by families arriving by train, bus and car – 20,000 of them throughout the day if previous numbers are matched. A whole range of organisations will lend their support to the Rotary-led free event ensuring its success is a boost for local trade, an outlet for home-grown talent and a day to remember for the families flocking there. The whole event kicks off with Santa's parade at 11.00, so come and join the fun and festivities!



St Luke's Hospice Light Up a Life. The Light Up a Life Service will be held in St Mary Magdalen, High Street, Billericay on Saturday 5th December at 12.00pm

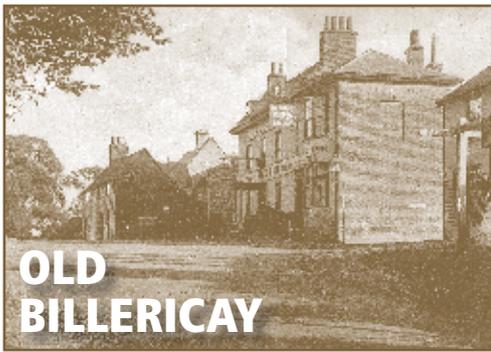
Christmas is a special time of the year – a time for families and loved ones. St. Luke's Hospice understands that we all have cherished ones who cannot be with us though they are in our thoughts, especially at this time. Light Up a Life is your opportunity to show that you care. You can be part of Light Up a Life by dedicating lights on one or more of our Light Up a Life trees. In doing so, you will be honouring or remembering someone special, as well as supporting the work of the Hospice and the services we provide. Your special person may not have been cared for by the Hospice but you are still welcome to remember them in this way. You can make your dedication by either a one off donation by debit/credit card or alternatively, you can set up a Direct Debit.

As part of your Light Up A Life donation you will receive:

- An entry into our Dedication Book available to view in all our Hospice Shops and at all our Light Up a Life services.
- Two blank stars – one for you to write your loved ones name on and keep. The second for you to dedicate a message for your loved one and return it to the hospice where it will be displayed on our 25th Anniversary tree.
- A symbolic light will be placed on our Light Up a Life trees throughout Basildon and Thurrock.

Please note our closing date for Light Up a Life dedications is Wednesday 16th December 2015. Should you require any additional information about Light up a Life please contact Anita on 01268 524973 or email anita@stlukeshospice.co.uk

For information about St Luke's Hospice visit www.stlukeshospice.co.uk or telephone 01268 524973. To contact 'OneResponse' tel: 01268 536259 any time of the day or night.



SUN CORNER has changed considerably over the years. The photograph was taken from London Road looking towards Sun Street with Laindon Road going off to the right down the side of the Rising Sun. On the right hand side behind the signpost is a building which is where the beacon on the corner of the open space now stands. Beyond the Rising Sun the couple of cottages with the black gable end have also gone and were replaced with a parking area for many years before the current redevelopment. The cottages were known as Eclipse Cottages as they stood between the Sun and the Moon; the Sun was the Rising Sun and the Moon was a pub that stood on the site of the garage forecourt in Sun Street. We know that in the 1930s the nearer cottage was occupied by a Mrs. Childs and her son who was known as Coupper. In the far distance you can see buildings which were replaced by Albion Court. The other main features to note are the porch that was on the entrance to the Rising Sun and that in the days when the photograph was taken the pub was then a hotel. Also the roads look to be unsurfaced. If you know when the photograph may have been taken please let us know. Many other photographs of the Town can be seen on the Billericay Community Archive at www.billericayhistory.org.uk or contact us via the Town Council.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS NOVEMBER 2015

Tue 3 Planning
Tue 17 Planning
Tue 24 Environment

DECEMBER 2015

Tue 1 Planning
Thur 3 Finance & GP
Thur 10 Town Council
Tue 15 Planning
Tue 29 Planning

JANUARY 2016

Tue 5 Environment
Tue 12 Planning
Thur 14 Finance & GP
Thur 21 Town Council
Tue 26 Planning

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.

ONLY REMEMBERED – A Festival of Remembrance in music and song

Billericay will have its own Festival of Remembrance at the Church of St. Mary Magdalen in the High Street, on Saturday 7th November, at 7.30pm.

Based on the famous event presented by the Royal British Legion in London's Royal Albert Hall on the first weekend of November, the event will be a "mini" version, featuring Billericay's popular and talented Harmony Brass Ensemble, The Essential Singers, soloist Matt Ford, and Standard Bearers from the Royal British Legion.



Amongst the musical items specially selected for the occasion will be the Military Wives hit song, Wherever You Are, along with a new setting for Only Remembered, from Warhorse, arranged for the whole ensemble of performers by Beryl Ford, and a finale including Sunset and Standard Bearers from the Royal British Legion. There will also be one minute's silence for reflection and remembrance.

The event has been devised and produced by Harmony Brass Director, Brian Ford, and proceeds will be donated to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Tickets for the Festival are £12 each and are available from the Box Office on 01277 622456.

For more information about the event, please call Brian or Beryl Ford on 01277 622456.

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Adam Adshead	29 The Meadow Way, Billericay, CM11 2HL	07976 049523	adam.adshead@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
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
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 622499	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	c/o Billericay Town Council	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 Jim Devlin

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
-------------	---	---	--

Contributions may be edited and acceptance and publication of all articles is subject to the Town Council's Terms and Conditions as shown on the website.