



Billericay Town Crier

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

Volume 7, Issue 4

November 2007

Inside this issue:

Billericay in Bloom
Winners
New Environment
Enforcement Officer

PAGE
2

Christmas Lights
BYTC - Lake Meadows
Park Update
Town Notice Board

PAGE
3

Volunteer Leaders
Spend a penny
Lollipop Person Needed
Library -
Come in 2 Win card
Cater Museum
Billericay Christmas Fayre
The Crunch Service
Town Councillors
Future dates for your diary

PAGE
4



It's Official - We're The Best!

THE Billericay Town Crier scooped the pool in the recent competition for newsletters for town and parish councils across Essex, by being awarded first prize. This was presented to Councillor John Buchanan, vice chairman of Billericay Town Council at the recent AGM of the Essex Association of Local Councils.

In addition this year's Annual Report has won second prize in the National competition and

was presented to Councillor Buchanan, who represented the Town Council at this year's conference of the National Association of Local Councils. Well done all concerned!

Billericay Town Council meets or exceeds the nationally established standards for local councils, one such being the issuing of a free quarterly newsletter and Annual Report to all households in the Billericay Town area.



purpose and it is the council's duty to deliver it. On this occasion therefore the distributors have been asked to deliver it to **ALL** households regardless of the notices displayed. If having read it you do not wish to receive further copies please let the Town Clerk know on 01277 625732 and we will pass this information on to our distributors. Thank you for your co-operation.

Meeting Room for Hire

The Town Council's Coach House meeting room in Crown Yard is available to hire at reasonable cost. A comfortably furnished room which can accommodate up to 40 people seated. The hire charges are £20 per session for local resident groups' and private bookings, and £35 per session for commercial hirers. For further details of hire, contact the Town Clerk.

Town Crier Delivery

The Town Council has discovered that the Town Crier is not at the moment being delivered to houses where there is a "No Free Newspapers" notice displayed.

Unlike the free newspapers, the Town Crier is paid for from the precept, in other words part of your council tax is used for this

For further information and general enquiries contact:

Town Clerk • Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX
www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 01277 625732 **F:** 01277 634784 **E:** townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 2.30pm Mon-Friday - outside these hours please ring as often the office is staffed

Billericay in Bloom 10th Anniversary 2007 Prize Winners

The tenth Billericay in Bloom ended with a wonderful prizegiving evening when Ken Crowther of BBC Essex came to present the prizes to the delighted winners in the 10 categories which were available this year. Young and old were again present to make this one of the most enjoyable events in the Town Council's calendar.

One of our judges, John Burrows was on hand to present the new judge's cup to the "Best in Competition" which was won by Mr. A. Last for his excellent back garden and hanging baskets.

As this is my last year

as chairman of the working party I would like to thank all members of the working party from its inception in 1998, our sponsors, all those of you who have entered and of course our excellent judges, John Wild and John Burrows for the generous time and effort they have given over the years.

Cllr. Marion Wilson, Chairman of the Billericay in Bloom Working Party.



BILLERICAY IN BLOOM 2007 WINNERS

BEST KEPT SMALL FRONT GARDEN (CATEGORY A)

- 1st Mrs T West
2nd Mr. K. Tout
3rd Thelma & John Green

BEST KEPT LARGE FRONT GARDEN (CATEGORY B)

- 1st Mrs A. Morris
2nd Tony Hooper
3rd Betty Ward

BEST KEPT SMALL BACK GARDEN (CATEGORY C)

- 1st Allen Last
2nd Mrs. D. Webb
3rd Mrs Irene Sherwood
H.C. Mrs M Thwaites

BEST KEPT LARGE BACK GARDEN (CATEGORY D)

- 1st Julie Kidner
2nd Thelma & John Green
3rd Mrs M Pellatt

BEST HANGING BASKET (CATEGORY E)

- 1st Allen Last
2nd Thelma Green
3rd Mrs. L. Marquette

BEST SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION GARDEN (CATEGORY F)

- 1st Mr C W Bedwell
2nd Rosetta Vincent
3rd Edward Boyes
H.C. Betty Evans

BEST COMMERCIAL PREMISES (CATEGORY G)

- 1st F E Farrer
2nd Billericay Homecare
3rd Ask
H.C. Billericay Cook Shop

BEST PUBLIC HOUSE (CATEGORY H)

- 1st The Chequers (Mr&Mrs J Thwaites)
2nd The Crown (Ken)

- 3rd The Rising Sun, Sun Street
(Graham Martin)

H.C. The Red Lion

BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN (CATEGORY I)

- 3rd Mr W A S Lamb

BEST FLOWER GARDEN IN A POT (CATEGORY J)

- 1st Emma Bannister
2nd Kirsty Geddes
3rd Eleanor Myall

BEST SCHOOL GARDEN (CATEGORY K)

- 1st Buttsbury Infant School
(Mrs. Jones)
2nd Quilters Infants (Mrs H. Luckman)
3rd Buttsbury Junior (Mr. Collier)

*Judges Award for Best in Show
Mr. A. Last*

Billericay Welcomes the New Environment Enforcement Officer

Billericay has a new Enforcement Officer who has already been very active in conjunction with our Litter Working Party helping us to keep the town as clean as possible. The new officer is one of five employed in the district by Basildon District Council to assist with the recycling policy and to enforce the litter laws for those companies creating litter, people who

drop and create litter problems and those responsible for keeping their premises free of litter.

The new officer has legal powers to enforce the Litter and Health and Safety Laws and is most welcome to help to improve the environment for Billericay Residents.

Fast food outlets, car parks, the station area and other places have been given attention

and already we see the benefits in the appearance of areas in the town.

New litter bins have been placed in the High Street and at the station to further help in keeping our town as free from litter as possible, so please use them!!

*Cllr Peter Bowditch
Chairman Environment Committee*

It's Christmas... again

For Christmas 2007/8 our Christmas lights are going to be bigger and extend right along the High Street, as well as being brighter and more colourful. Flashing lights will be a feature of many of the High Street's trees and icicle decorations will provide colour and brightness between the decorations that adorn each street light. Piggott's, our contractors, assure us that any disappointments from last year will be remedied by the new displays.

Of course, the new lights can be brightly complemented by colourful shop displays. Last year also saw the inaugural 'Best Shop Window' competition for imaginative Christmas window decorations. The initial winner, who received a prize of £150, was the Olive Branch who donated its prize to the Hamelin Trust charity. This year we are hoping for even more entrants to add sparkle to the High Street. Please contact the Town Clerk for details and to apply.

We are again seeking sponsorship from Billericay's business community, local organisations, charities and individuals. Any money raised is used to increase the sum of money available for the Christmas lights and the switching-on ceremony. We thank those who have donated in previous years and ask that these and others offer some money towards the display. Please contact the Town Clerk if you wish to sponsor this year's lights.

Billericay is again very fortunate that for the 3rd year running Father Christmas has agreed to switch on our Christmas lights. This will take place from 3:30pm on the 24th November in front of the Chequers public house on the High Street. Father Christmas will be escorted by our Town Crier and we hope to be entertained by



Billericay School choir, members from a dancing school and some well-loved Disney characters. Fruit punch and mince pies will be sold and snow is again guaranteed. Last year many, many children of all ages attended, let's try and beat last years' attendance to make Christmas 2007 even bigger and brighter and more exciting!

A very early happy Christmas and prosperous new year to all the people of Billericay.

Cllr. David Knight, Chairman of the Christmas Lights Working Party

BYTC update Lake Meadows Park

Skatepark: The Billericay Youth Town Council are pleased to announce that the extension to the skate park has now been completed and the new half-pipe and fun box have been installed by Rhino Ramps. The Youth Town Council could not have undertaken this project without grant funding from the Pitsea Cleanaway Trust and Essex County Council. An official opening ceremony will be held when local skate-boarders will be invited to watch a demonstration by professionals as well as participate: so watch the local press for further details.

Tennis Court: As a result of two of the tennis courts being refurbished the District Council have approached the Youth Town Council to see if they would like to provide a facility on the third tennis court. The Youth Town Council are looking into the provision of some form of ball court facilities and in this respect are obtaining design suggestions and quotations. A consultation letter is to be distributed to all

neighbouring properties but if you have any comments or suggestions please forward them to the Town Clerk.

Membership: As a result of a number of Youth Town Councillors setting off for universities throughout the country there are a few vacancies on the Council – so if you are interested or know of anyone within Billericay between the ages of 11-18



who is interested in representing the young people of Billericay and wants to help to provide or improve facilities please contact the Town Clerk.

New Billericay Town Notice Board

The long awaited new notice board is shortly to be located at the northern corner of Western Road and the High Street, a position where it will be seen by a large number of commuters and people passing each day to and fro from the station.

The new notice board was sponsored by Bennetts Funeral Directors for which we are very grateful and will be managed by BTC with both partners contributing to the notices displayed there. This will include useful information regarding current activities in the area. Billericay Society will provide maps showing footpath walks in and around the town that residents can explore. Any notices that you would like to be displayed can be given to the Town Clerk at the Billericay Town Council Office or Lucienne Young at Bennetts Funeral Directors. (Tel 01277 624289)

*Cllr Peter Bowditch
Chairman Environment Committee*

Look out for the new Town Guide

Members of the Town Council have, over the past few months, been working on the 5th edition of the Town Guide which will be delivered to all properties within the town boundary of Billericay. This edition will contain no advertisements so more space has been dedicated to articles from local clubs, groups and organisations.

If you have not received a copy of the new guide by the end of November please contact the Town Council office.

Our Futures could be UR Future – will you seize the opportunity?

Volunteer young people's leaders wanted to help with several age groups.

Billericay Methodist Church hosts Youth Clubs, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

If you are interested in working with young people and sympathetic to our aims and if you can commit to just 8 evenings for one year (or more) and use your talents to train or to support the young people then we need your help. We also need occasional drivers, cooks, supervisors and similar will you help us, now?

The Youth are our future. Will you help make the future better?

If you are willing then contact Dave Chuck at Billericay Methodist Church for details or just to discuss this. Tel. 07860 570635 or dave.chuck@yahoo.co.uk

Please note: All leaders/helpers will be CRB checked. Training and support will be provided.

Spend a penny in Billericay ...again!

For two years the Town Council has been trying, as part of its efforts to improve facilities in our town, to install a public convenience near the High Street. Having finally flushed our way through all the legalities associated with acquiring and siting a toilet, the Town Council is pleased to announce that a contract has been signed with Healthmatic and Basildon District Council to provide a public convenience in the Basildon District Council car park behind Woolworths. The toilet will comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and offer baby change facilities. It will be cleaned automatically but

will also be checked daily by an employee. Connections to the utilities – water, sewage, electricity and telephone – will take several months but we have been told the facility will be available early in the New Year.

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused during the installation of the convenience but we hope Billericay people and visitors will appreciate the new facility.

*Cllr. Gill Thurman
Chairman of the Public Convenience
Working Party*

[The Council are relieved that this matter has been brought to an end]

BASILDON DISTRICT COUNCIL SATURDAY CRUNCH SERVICE 9.00 A.M. to 12 NOON

Garden refuse and general rubbish can be taken to the following:

Nov	3	Radford Crescent Car Park
Dec	1	Little Burstead Car Park
January	19	Radford Crescent Car Park

District Council Surgery

If you have a matter you wish to discuss with a member of Basildon District Council, they hold a surgery at The Coach House, Crown Yard, High Street on the last Saturday of each month between 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Essex County Councillors also attend these surgeries to meet residents who might want to discuss issues related to County Council activities and responsibilities.

Needed

Lillipop Persons required for the Billericay area.

Anyone interested in a part time position should contact: Peter Hickford, Crossing Patrol Supervisor

Tel: 01277 215678 or 07990 518695

Essex County Council – Library Service

If you are 5-16 years old you could win a prize. Pick up a Come in 2 Win card from the library and make sure it gets stamped on each visit. You might be one of the lucky winners in the monthly prize draw taking place between October 2007 and March 2008.

The Cater Museum

74 High Street, Billericay · Tel: 01277 622023

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday 2.00pm to 5.00pm

NOVEMBER 2007

Printing! A view of printing in the past and the chance to try it yourself!

DECEMBER 2007

A Victorian Christmas

Billericay Christmas Fayre

Will be held on Wednesday 5 December within the High Street. The High Street will shut to traffic at 5.30 p.m. and will reopen at 9.30 p.m.

Watch the local press for further details.

Supplies of Sacks

The Town Council has supplies of the Pink recycle sacks, free of charge, and White Garden waste sacks, £1.40 per roll.

Town Council Meetings

Future Dates For Your Diary

All meetings start at 7:00pm and, unless stated otherwise, are held at The Coach House, Crown Yard, High Street and are open to the public.

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY	1	Town Council
TUESDAY	6	Planning
TUESDAY	13	Environment
TUESDAY	20	Planning
THURSDAY	22	Finance & GP (Draft Estimates)

DECEMBER

TUESDAY	4	Planning
THURSDAY	6	Town Council (Estimates)
TUESDAY	18	Planning

JANUARY

TUESDAY	8	Planning
TUESDAY	15	Environment
TUESDAY	22	Planning
THURSDAY	24	Finance & GP

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Councillor	Address	Telephone	Ward
Beverley Beale			E
Peter Bowditch			SW
John Buchanan			E
Roberta Crew			E
Gerald Dann			W
Jim Devlin			W
Jack Dunn			W
Colin Dyer			E
Terence Gandy			W
Jonathan Garlick			E
Edgar Guest			SW
David Knight			E
Moirra Moore			W
Dave Pugh			SW
Rod Rapley			W
Daphne Spencer			E
Trevor Stansfield			W
Gillian Thurman			W
Pamela Went			W
Marion Wilson			E