



Billericay Town Crier

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

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Cllrs. Peter Bowditch, Chairman
and Jim Devlin, Vice-Chairman



A New Team for Billericay Town Council

At its first meeting after the elections, Billericay Town Council voted Councillor Peter Bowditch in as its new Chairman and Councillor Jim Devlin as its Vice Chairman.

They replaced former chairman, Beverley Beale, who did not stand for re-election and former Vice

Chairman Councillor John Buchanan, who remains on the council. We thank them for their efforts and wish the new team every success in the coming year.

At the Council meeting held on 19th June six new Councillors were co-opted to make up the full complement. For full details see the back page.

BBC RADIO 4'S ANY QUESTIONS COMES TO BILLERICAY

Billericay Town Council has been asked by the BBC to host their popular Radio 4 programme 'Any Questions' chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby. The programme will be transmitted live on the 22nd August at the Emmanuel Church on Laindon Road. The audience is asked to take their seats between 6.45pm and 7.15pm. The tickets, which are free, will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis and will be released from the 1st August. Please contact the Town Clerk to order your tickets as soon as possible. The tickets also include space to pose a question to the programme's panel. These questions should have a national interest and does not preclude those of a more light-hearted nature. The questions will be collected as you enter the building. Those considered appropriate will be selected and these people asked to direct their questions direct to the panel. Please help to make this a truly memorable occasion by requesting tickets and asking interesting questions.

David Knight – Chairman – Any Questions Working Party

BILLERICAY TOWN WALK 2008 – SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST

Meeting at Billericay
Railway Station at
10.00a.m.

A leisurely walk through
Billericay learning about
the history and architecture
of the High Street.

For further information
contact the Town Clerk.

For further information and general enquiries contact:

Town Clerk • Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX
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Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 2.30pm Mon-Friday - outside these hours please ring as often the office is staffed



YOU CAN NOW SPEND A PENNY IN COMFORT ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT!

On Saturday 12 April the newly installed automatic public convenience situated in the car park behind Woolworths was officially opened by Cllr John Buchanan, former Vice-Chairman of the Council. Also in attendance were the Town Crier, Jim Shrubbs, Town Councillors and representatives of the sponsors, Basildon District Council who supplied £1,000 and Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund who contributed £12,000 towards the overall cost. This facility already seems to be proving a great convenience and only costs 20p to use.

GLOWING INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

In the recent Interim Report received from the Town Council's Internal Auditors they stated:

"Billericay Town Council is a very active Council and works to the benefit of all sections of the community, including the youth. A comprehensive reporting structure of Committee and Working Parties provides a very efficient method of working."

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Town Council has set-up a new Memorial Project Group to look into the possibility of providing a fitting tribute in memory of local residents killed as civilians, as a result of military or terrorist actions.

One possibility being considered is the placing of a bronze plaque within the area of the two existing War Memorials in the High Street.

Prior to any further action being taken, members of the Project Group would welcome the views of the public with regard to this matter. Please contact the office if you have comments to make by 30 August 2008.

FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON



The Town Council with the sponsorship of Bennetts Funeral Directors have installed a noticeboard at the junction of the High Street with Western Road and the official unveiling took place at the beginning of May. Essex County Council granted consent to the location and the double-sided noticeboard was installed by the Highways Department. Town Council and community notices are placed on one side and the other has a map showing the footpaths and circular walks of Billericay. This map was provided with financial assistance from the Billericay Society.

Photograph shows Beverley Beale, former Chairman of the Town Council; Jane Bennett, Bennetts Funeral Directors and David Bremner, Billericay Society.

SAVE OUR SHOPS CAMPAIGN

The Billericay Gazette and the Billericay Chamber of Commerce are running a campaign to remind visitors and residents that times are a little difficult in the retail world and that shopping in Billericay is very important to the continuing variety of shops and services currently provided in the High Street. Don't forget there are several other retail areas accessed from the High Street such as Holly Court, Sheredays, The Walk as well as other shopping parades throughout Billericay. Look out for them, they are very interesting places to visit. Billericay town is unique in its heritage, location, rural setting and a wonderful balance of residential development and



good planning. The businesses it supports are key to the local economy and the prosperity of the town. It regenerates itself and moves with the times. A vibrant High Street with its variety of local and national investors needs the support of our residents to ensure that this continues in the foreseeable future. With the current continuing escalation in fuel prices, travelling distances to shop will become less attractive giving our local shops the opportunity to supply what you need.

Please support your High Street as the retailers reflect what Billericay people want to buy. Please visit it as often as you can and support the Save our Shops Campaign.



BILLERICAY IS NOW A FAIRTRADE TOWN

Enough Fairtrade goods – produced by disadvantaged farmers and workers in developing countries – are now available across Billericay to make Billericay a Fairtrade Town. It is hoped the town's new status will raise awareness of the issue around the town. This status was celebrated with a Launch Event in St Mary Magdalen church on Saturday 8 March at which an official certificate from The Fairtrade Foundation was presented to Billericay Town Council Chairman, Cllr Mr Beverley Beale, by John Buchanan, the Chairman of the Billericay District Residents' Association which had organised the campaign. Certificates were also awarded to all outlets providing Fairtrade products. A directory of local shops, cafés and catering establishments that sell and stock Fairtrade goods, sponsored by The Billericay District Residents' Association is now available, by e-mail from fair-trade@bdra.org.

DON'T DROP IT – USE A BUTT BOX!

To avoid getting fined for dropping cigarette ends, contact the Town Council and obtain a free "Butt Box", purpose-made in which to put all your discarded cigarettes.



NEW VENUE FOR "PLANT A SHRUB" A Joint Venture with Basildon District Council

For a number of years shrubs have been planted at the Festival Gardens, Crown Road, twice a year in memory of loved ones. As this garden is now full it has been agreed with the District Council that similar plantings can take place in an area designated for this purpose within Lake Meadows and the first planting will be undertaken during October.

As part of an on-going programme of improvements within Lake Meadows Park, the Town Council has financed additional plants to be situated in the "Child in the Park" garden and these should help to enhance the area.

Members of the Billericay Youth Town Council took part in the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower Fun Day held at Sun Corner on Sunday 6 July 2008 when they, and some brave members of the public, had wet sponges thrown at them whilst in the stocks.

AMERICANS VISIT BILLERICAY



A party of two teachers and four students from Fishers spent a week in Billericay in June on an exchange programme arranged by the Billericay Twinning Association between our two secondary schools and two similar schools in Fishers.

They spent their first day following the Town Trail with Councillor Buchanan filling in the historical details, followed by a visit to the Barleylands craft village. Chris Huggins, the warden of Norsey Woods provided a guided tour in the afternoon.

Students spent time in each of the secondary schools but fitted in a trip down the river Chelmer from Paper Mill Lock on the Friday. At the weekend the host parents took them into London to see all the usual sights and get a ride on the Millennium Eye. The visit was completed with a farewell dinner on the last night before they returned to the States.

ORCHIDCYCLE ESSEX

Sunday 8th June saw the start of this year's sponsored OrchidCycle Essex from Lake Meadows Park in Billericay. Orchid is a charity which exists to save men's lives from prostate, testicular and penile cancers through pioneering research and promoting public awareness about these diseases which take around 10,000 male lives each year. 650 cyclists of all ages registered to take part in the two sections – the riders ranged from the serious cycle club members to families and fun riders. The 8 a.m. start was for the ambitious hoping to complete between 70 and 100 miles and the 9 a.m. start for the rest of the enthusiastic riders hoping to cover between 20 and 40 miles. The event was started by Cllr. Frank Tomlinson, Chairman of Basildon District Council, Cllr. Peter Bowditch, Chairman of Billericay Town Council and Danny Crates the Essex based Paralympic sprinter who is the Olympic 800 metres gold medallist. They cut the tape to start each of the two cycle events. The money raised from this event is expected to reach £30,000 and since the event started in 2001 it is hoped the overall total figure will reach £100,000. On the return of the cyclists, they were all invited to join a barbeque with drinks and other social events laid on by the organisers. *Peter Bowditch – Chairman, Town Council*

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Future Dates For Your Diary

AUGUST

Tuesday 5 Planning
 Tuesday 12 Environment
 Tuesday 19 Planning
 Thursday 21 Finance & General Purposes

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 2 Planning
 Thursday 4 Town Council
 Tuesday 16 Planning
 Tuesday 30 Planning

OCTOBER

Tuesday 7 Environment
 Tuesday 14 Planning
 Thursday 16 Finance & General Purposes
 Thursday 23 Town Council
 Tuesday 28 Planning

All meetings start at 7.00 pm unless stated otherwise and are held at The Coach House, Crown Yard, High Street and are open to the public.

BDC – SATURDAY CRUNCH SERVICE

9.00 a.m. to 12 noon

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

August 2 Little Burstead Car Park
 September 6 Radford Crescent Car Park
 October 4 Little Burstead Car Park

ESSEX POLICE

24 hour non-emergency number
 0300 3334444

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Paul Arnold				E
Tina Arnold				E
Peter Bowditch				W
John Buchanan				E
Jim Devlin				W
Jack Dunn				W
Colin Dyer				W
Terence Gandy				W
Edgar Guest				SW
David Knight				E
Kevin Mesnard				W
Maira Moore				E
Rod Rapley				W
James Shrubbs				E
Daphne Spencer				E
Trevor Stansfield				W
Ann Ud-Din				SW
Dr. Hameed Ud-Din				SW
Pamela Went				W
Marion Wilson				E

TOWN CLERK:

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