



# Billericay Town Crier

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Picture provided by  
Brentwood & Billericay Gazette

## BBC Radio 4 Any Questions – 'An Enthusiastic Response'

Over 300 people from in and around Billericay gathered at the Emmanuel Church Laindon Road on August 22nd when Billericay Town Council hosted the popular BBC Radio 4 Programme 'Any Questions'. The audience were requested to submit written questions as they entered and despite August being regarded as a 'quiet time' in politics, over 100 questions were submitted – ten of these were chosen by the BBC team.

The evening commenced with Carolyn Brown, a Radio 4 Announcer, providing anecdotes of BBC Radio 4 working life which were both informative and amusing. Then, shortly before 8:00pm, the panel was introduced. The members were;

- Carol Gould – journalist and film producer;
- James Delingpole – author, journalist, broadcaster and critic;
- Frank Furedi – Professor of Sociology at the University of Kent;

- Bob Crow – General Secretary of the Rail and Maritime Union.

The Chairman was, as usual, Jonathan Dimpleby, who ably stimulated the debate, and the Producer was Lisa Jenkinson. The questions chosen were varied and included discussions about the economy, pedigree dogs, Gary Glitter and genealogy. The panel provided some interesting and, at times, very conflicting views on these subjects.

After the programme, Jonathan Dimpleby complimented both the Town Council and the people of Billericay for an enthusiastic response in making this edition of 'Any Questions' a great success.

I would like to thank all those who helped to make the event so successful but especially the people of Billericay without whom the whole evening would have been pointless.

*David Knight – Chairman: Any Questions Working Party*

## NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR BILLERICAY

Billericay Town Council's contract with Piggotts to provide our Christmas lights has now ended. Due to disappointments in previous years, we decided to seek an alternative supplier. After reviewing suitable companies, Festive Impact Lighting has been contracted to erect, maintain, dismantle and store our Christmas lights. At the same time, the much criticised red and blue lamp column spheres are to be replaced with motifs displaying Christmas themes (Christmas tree, stocking, angel and stars). These will be complemented by lights on all the High Street trees and sets of icicle lights. We hope that a good relationship will develop with Festive Impact Lighting and that our Christmas lights, this year, will be better and brighter.

## CELEBRATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Once again Billericay is fortunate that Father Christmas has made time in this busy period to switch on our Christmas Lights. This will take place on the 29th November beginning at 3:30pm outside the Chequers Public House on the High Street. As well as Father Christmas, Billericay School choir and the Salvation Army will be playing carols and cartoon characters will be giving out balloons. Father Christmas will be greeted by the Town Crier and will lead the traditional countdown for switching on the lights. This has become a very popular annual event for Billericay and we hope that children of all ages will continue to enjoy the festivities. Snow is guaranteed.

*David Knight – Chairman – Christmas Lights Working Party*

For further information and general enquiries contact:

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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

# BILLERICAY IN BLOOM 2008



This year's Billericay in Bloom Competition commenced with a very interesting talk and demonstration by Andrea Hatfield on Hanging Baskets and Planters at the Reading Rooms, High Street on 11 June and concluded with the prizegiving evening on 18 July. Once again Ken Crowther of BBC Essex came to present the prizes and also in attendance was John Baron, MP. The evening was very successful with a large number of entrants in the 10 categories in attendance ranging from school children through to senior citizens. Cllr. Moira Moore, in her first year as Chairman of the Working Party, expressed appreciation to members of the Working Party, the judges, sponsors and all the entrants.



## BILLERICAY IN BLOOM 2008 PRIZE WINNERS

### BEST GARDEN IN A POT – HERB GARDEN

*Sponsor: Bennetts Funeral Directors Lucienne Young*

- First Prize Maryn Parry, Quilters Juniors  
 Second Prize Matthew Powrie, Buttsbury Juniors  
 Third Prize Emma Bannister, Quilters Juniors

### BEST SCHOOL GARDEN

*Sponsor: Waitrose*

- First Prize Quilters Infants  
 Second Prize Quilters Junior  
 Third Prize Sunnymead Infants

### BEST COMMERCIAL PREMISES

*Sponsor: Billericay Town Council*

- First Prize Billericay Cook Shop  
 Second Prize Village Bar Grill  
 Third Prize VIVA

### BEST PUBLIC HOUSE

*Sponsor: Billericay Town Council*

- First Prize The Rising Sun  
 Second Prize The Chequers  
 Third Prize The Blue Boar

### BEST SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION GARDEN

*Sponsor: Brentwood & Billericay Gazette*

- First Prize Mr CW Bedwell, Norsey Court  
 Second Prize Betty Evans, Holley Garden  
 Third Prize Mrs Pamela Atkins, Holley Gardens

### BEST KEPT SMALL FRONT GARDEN

*Sponsor: Curtis O'Boyle Estate Agents*

- First Prize Deborah Russell, Heather Bank

- Second Prize Mr & Mrs Green, The Vale  
 Third Prize John Chapman, Hallam Court

### BEST KEPT LARGE FRONT GARDEN

*Sponsor: SJ Bedwell & Sons (Printers) Ltd*

- First Prize Mr & Mrs Tout, First Avenue  
 Second Prize Mr Tony Hooper, Perry Street  
 Third Prize Mrs Betty Ward, Cromwell Avenue

### BEST KEPT SMALL BACK GARDEN

*Sponsor: Billericay Mayflower Twinning*

- First Prize Mrs A Reid, Kelvedon Road  
 Second Prize Mrs D Turrell, Western Mews  
 Third Prize Mrs M Thwaites, West Croft

### BEST KEPT LARGE BACK GARDEN

*Sponsor: Oaktree IT Services*

- First Prize Mr & Mrs Tout, First Avenue  
 Second Prize Lisa Ambler, Deerbank  
 Third Prize Mr & Mrs B Redgwell, Bellevue Road

### BEST HANGING BASKET

*Sponsor: Billericay Nurseries*

- First Prize Mrs Lynne Marquette, Cranmer Close  
 Second Prize Carol Pressman, Tye Common Road  
 Third Prize Mrs Thelma Green, The Vale

### BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN

*Sponsor: Billericay Cook Shop*

- Second Prize Mr T Hooper, Perry Street  
 Third Prize Mr W Lamb, Fairfield Rise

**Judge's prize for Best in Show – Mrs A Reid**

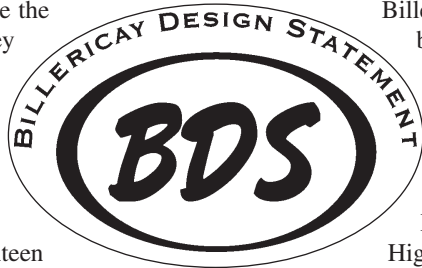
**Best Schools Entry – Quilters Infants**



## PEOPLE CAN INFLUENCE PLANNING POLICY

Last year the Billericay Design Statement Association conducted a survey to determine what townfolk thought about Billericay, and how to preserve the good things and improve the bad things. The survey was achieved primarily by distributing questionnaires at a series of road shows in different sectors of the town.

In all there were seventeen days of roadshows and some 5500 questionnaires were handed out. Completed questionnaires and associated notes resulted in nearly 35000 opinions and over 5000 comments. Having analysed the results, we



need to confirm them by asking people to complete another questionnaire.

The more people participate in the consultation, the more the Billericay Design Statement becomes an authoritative expression of community wishes.

The BDSA will be at the Christmas Fun Night at St Mary Magdalene Church in the High Street on 3 December.

Alternatively, copies of the questionnaire can be obtained from the Town Council offices in Crown Yard or it can be viewed and completed on the BDSA website [www.billericaydsa.org.uk](http://www.billericaydsa.org.uk).

# CCTV

We welcome the statement made by the Leader of Basildon District Council that £200,000 of funding is being sought to enable the CCTV system to be manned and monitored 24/7 from a centre in Basildon. This will enable a close watch at the centre of all the images throughout the district including Billericay. We have campaigned for this system enhancement for some time now to further assist in crime detection by the Essex Police.

## FINDING THE WAY



Picture provided by Yellow Advertiser Cllrs D Knight, J Buchan and P Bowditch

After quite a few months in the process, the Town Council has put up the signs for the first of four planned walking routes to help visitors and residents, whether newly arrived or long established, find quick ways to walk around the town. The first one takes you from Sun Corner to Greens Farm Lane and vice versa, with a direct route across a corner of Mill Meadows or a scenic route taking in more of the Meadows. The next one will get you from the station to Queens Park Country Park and all points in between. The signs will be up in due course; these things take time. The Council is also keen to address the needs of cyclists and would like to hear from you if you know of (legal) short routes to cycle across the town avoiding the main roads.

### BILLERICAY STRATEGY STEERING GROUP

The Town Council has two members sitting on the Billericay Strategy Steering Group which has been set up to identify the health needs of the residents of Billericay. This group has been set up by the South West Essex Primary Care Trust to consult with all interested groups including GPs, local stakeholders, town and district councillors, community services providers and the general public. Public meetings have taken place, which were advertised in the local press and around the town. Billericay

MP John Baron is also very involved in this review and we will be working closely with him and all concerned to ensure that we get the best health services possible for Billericay residents for the future taking into account all information recorded during the consultation process.

### LAKE MEADOWS

On September 3rd we were delighted to hear that Basildon District Council had given the Town Council final planning permission to go ahead to build a Teen Play Area next to the skateboard area in Lake Meadows. The project will be installed and commissioned before the end of the year. This is an important development catering for the 11 to 16 years age group in the town who need a place to exercise and release their energy. We thank the Youth Town Council and all those involved in this project so far.

### BICYCLE RACKS FOR BILLERICAY?

There have been many requests for bicycle racks to be placed within Billericay for those wishing to cycle into the town. At present, there seem to be only some racks in Alma Link and Woolworths Car Park. The Town Council would like to provide new or enhanced bike racks but are seeking advice as to the best place(s) to site them. We would like you to forward your preferences, by the end of November, to the Town Clerk by completing the following slip or contacting the Town Clerk. Thank You

*David Knight – Town Councillor*

My preferred site(s) for bicycle racks are (please tick preferences):

- Alma Link  Woolworths Car Park   
 Library  Railway Station

Others (please specify) .....

Name .....

Address .....

Phone No .....

## RECENT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CATER MUSEUM

As many residents will have noticed, the Cater Museum, Billericay High Street was closed for 3 months this spring and summer. This was to allow for extensive refurbishments to be carried out. With the help of a Heritage Lottery Grant of £41,000, significant alterations were made including a VDU on the ground floor, offering a virtual tour of the building, for those unable to manage the stairs.

## BILLERICAY FUN NIGHT

Organised by the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower, will take place on Wednesday 3 December 2008 when the High Street will be closed to through traffic.

## SUNDAY ROTA FOR PHARMACY PROVISION

The South West Essex Primary Care Trust have supplied information stating that the following chemists will be open from 11.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. on the Sundays indicated:

Sunday 2 November Alliance Boots, Queens Park  
 Sunday 9 November Shadforths, High Street  
 Sunday 16 November Lloyds

This rota will be repeated thereafter until 29 March 2009 when a review of pharmacy services within Billericay will take place. Boots within the High Street provides a pharmacy service between 10.00 am & 2.00 pm every Sunday.

## £300 RAISED FOR BILLERICAY CHARITY BY ROUND TABLE

Billericay Round Table raised £300 for local charity "BOSP" (Brighter Opportunities Through Supported Play). This was achieved by members of Round Table and the Essex Road Cycling Club taking to their bikes and cycling over 300 miles without moving an inch!!! On Saturday 30th August, a team of riders rode static bikes in front of the Red Lion pub and cycled for 5 hours.

## BILLERICAY LIBRARY TO OFFER A CANCER INFORMATION SERVICE

Launched in September by County Councillor Kay Twitchen and Stephen Richards, the Macmillan South East Regional Director - a collection of books and booklets dealing with cancer - are now available. The free Cancer line is 0800 808 2020.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Future Dates For Your Diary

### NOVEMBER

Tuesday 11 Planning  
 Tuesday 18 Environment  
 Tuesday 25 Planning  
 Thursday 27 Finance & General Purposes

### DECEMBER

Tuesday 9 Planning  
 Thursday 11 Town Council (Estimates)  
 Tuesday 23 Planning

### JANUARY 2009

Tuesday 6 Planning  
 Tuesday 13 Environment  
 Thursday 15 Finance & General Purposes  
 Tuesday 20 Planning  
 Thursday 29 Town Council

All meetings start at 7.00 p.m. unless stated otherwise and are held in 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 on the dates shown to the following:

November 1 Radford Crescent Car Park  
 November 29 Little Burstead Car Park  
 January 17 Radford Crescent Car Park  
 January 31 Little Burstead Car Park

## PLANT A SHRUB

We apologise that it was not possible to hold the usual Plant a Shrub event in October due to Festival Gardens being full and a new location has not yet been agreed with Basildon District Council. Hopefully this will be resolved by March 2009.

# 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
Mik Dunn				W
Colin Dyer				W
Terence Gandy				W
Edgar Guest				SW
David Knight				E
Kevin Mesnard				W
Moir a 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

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