



Billericay Town Crier

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CELEBRATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR 2008

On Saturday the 29th November, about 500 people of all ages, more than ever before, braved the cold and the (artificial) snow to welcome Santa Claus to Billericay for our annual Celebration of the Christmas lights. This year there were more lights than previously and these were displayed along the entire High Street from Sun Corner to Western Road and included much improved and colourful Christmas motifs on every lamp column. Santa Claus switched on our lights after the Town Crier had led the countdown and then Santa distributed sweets to the children. The Salvation Army band and Billericay School choir

provided Christmas music with carol sheets distributed for all to sing along. The Billericay Youth Town Council dressed up as popular characters and gave out balloons to the children. Thanks also must go to Mrs. Thwaites, landlady of the Chequers pub, for providing the snow machine and to the police for their wonderful help and co-operation along with all other groups who made the day so enjoyable. But particular thanks must go to the people of Billericay for attending the celebration and helping to make the day a success.

*Councillor David Knight – Chairman,
Christmas Lights Working Party.*

TOWN COUNCIL CUTS TAX BILLS

Your Town Council has approved the Finance Committee's recommendation and cut its council tax precept for 2009/2010 by 6%, equivalent to £1 for a Band D property. This may not represent a huge amount to individuals, but it shows that Councillors understand that residents have less money in their pockets because of the current economic climate and have taken action to reduce taxpayers' burden. Several years of prudent financial management and increased outside funding will mean that services and future projects will be unaffected by this move. Every project in the pipeline has been budgeted for and reasonable reserves have been allocated for unforeseen circumstances.

Councillor Edgar Guest – Chairman, Finance & General Purposes Committee

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Official Office Opening times 9.30am - 2.30pm Mon-Friday - outside these hours please ring as there may well be office staff present



BEST SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION 2008

Despite the current difficult financial times, it was very pleasing to see that many, many shops had provided Christmas decorations in their windows. This made it very difficult for the judges, from Billericay Town Council and Billericay Youth Town Council, to decide on a winner for this our third Christmas shop window competition. Eventually, it was decided that Thermaseal at 90 High Street were worthy winners and they donated the £100 prize to Hamelin Trust. The prize was presented by Sophie Harrison, chairwoman of Billericay Youth Town Council, on 22nd December to the staff of Thermaseal with volunteers from Hamelin Trust also present. We wish to thank all who decorated their windows as it added more Christmas sparkle to the High Street.

Councillor David Knight – Chairman, Christmas Lights Working Party

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THE HIGH STREET'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2008

Basildon District Council
 Bennetts Funeral Directors
 Billericay Computers
 The Billericay Cookshop
 Billericay District Residents' Association
 Billericay Homecare
 The Billericay Society
 The Coach & Horses Public House
 The Chequers Public House
 The Emporium
 F.E. Farrers Funeral Directors

Fish'n' Chick'n Ltd
 A.J. Grayburn & Co Ltd
 Hamilton Carpets
 Lions Club of Billericay
 Michaela Health and Beauty
 Picturesque
 Ravens Bakery
 Rotary Club of Billericay
 Shadforth Chemists
 Woodward Carpets
 Waitrose

BILLERICAY YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

The Billericay Youth Town Council elections have now taken place and eighteen youngsters have completed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office for a two year period. Their first meeting was held on Tuesday 18 November when Sophie Harrison, was elected Chairwoman with Starr Mumford being appointed as Vice-Chairwoman. Sophie had served on the previous Youth Town Council along with three other Youth Councillors but the remaining fourteen members are all new to the YTC. They have now got some very exciting projects in mind for the forthcoming two-year-period.

The picture shows members of the Youth Town Council with the Chairman of the Town Council, Cllr. Peter Bowditch.



BIG LITTER PICK – 11 October 2008



Well, what a turnout! Approximately fifty people from all sectors of the community assembled at Billericay Town Council offices on a bright Saturday morning to take part in yet another 'Big Litter Pick' organised by the Town Council to help make Billericay a tidier place. All participants were issued with high visibility vests, litter picking implements and hoops to keep the bags open whilst collection was in progress. The hoops were kindly donated to the Town Council with the assistance of Trevor Draper, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce who had obtained sponsorship from Waitrose, The Raj, Greggs Bakery, Billericay Bakery, Wimpy, Fish'n'Chick'n and Deli37.

Approximately 80 bags of rubbish were collected in total from the High Street, Sun Corner, Laindon Road, Queens Park, Norsey Road, Festival Gardens, Lake Meadows and the Railway Station. Those people covering the High Street areas noticed a reduction in rubbish from previous years so perhaps the message is getting through. However, there were still plenty of cigarette ends to be found.

Members of the Norsey Wood Society also take part in the 'Big Litter Pick' and their Chairman expressed concern about the amount of dog mess prevalent along the Easy Access Trail in Norsey Wood, particularly near the car park. This is a health hazard, especially to the many young children and school parties who visit the wood. Dog owners should ensure that they clean up after their dogs.

The Town Council is grateful to all those who participated and another such event will be held on Saturday 4 April 2009. Watch your local paper for details.

DON'T DROP IT!!!

From February 2009 the Basildon District Council Environmental Enforcement Officers will be out on the streets issuing fixed penalty notices of £75 to people who drop litter including cigarette butts. Don't risk it – bin it.

LAKE MEADOWS PLAY EQUIPMENT



The construction of the new play equipment for 11 to 16 year olds in Lake Meadows is now complete and the official opening will be at 11am on January 31st 2009.

It is now available to use and the Chairman of the Town Council could not wait to try out the Skate Board Run as soon as it was erected. Some people refuse to accept maturity!!



TWO BUS SHELTERS AT ONCE

As a result of being approached by the Queens Park Residents Association and with the assistance of grant funding from the Essex County Council, the Town Council have installed two new bus shelters – one in Rosebay Avenue and the other in Arlington Way.

The photograph shows members of the public with Town Councillors and Artak Poghosyan (representative of the Queens Park Residents Association).

SUN CORNER – A TOWN GREEN

Sometime ago the Town Council applied to register Sun Corner as a Town Green. This means that it remains an open space in perpetuity. In the near future our application will be considered and the Town Council is preparing its case to present to an independent inspector at a Public Inquiry. Already several people have indicated that they will give evidence, but if you or your family have been regular users of Sun Corner and you would like to add your voice, please contact the Town Clerk.

WAR MEMORIAL

During October members of the Town Council War Memorial Working Party, comprising Town Councillors, representatives of the Royal British Legion, Youth Town Council, Billericay Society and Billericay Archaeological & Historical Society, carried out a general cleaning of the area, removed the suckers from the two lime trees and the moss from the memorials.

The work is part of the annual maintenance programme and is undertaken prior to the November Remembrance Day Parade.

Professional cleaning has now been undertaken to make the inscriptions of the World War II memorial easy to read. To avoid causing damage to the memorial extensive trials were undertaken to ensure that the correct cleaning process was used.

MORE NEW SIGNS SHOW THE WAY



Walking is good for you, but of course you don't want to get lost, and you don't want to go the long way round. Billericay has got many well used footpaths but until recently few of them carried any hint as to where they would lead you. Following the success of the first signposted walking route in early 2008, the signs have now gone up for the route from the railway station all the way to Queens Park Country Park, passing Lake Meadows on the way. Essex County Council provided the funding through the Community Initiative Fund, and on 3rd December County Councillors John Jowers and Tony Hedley joined Town Councillors John Buchanan, David Knight and Kevin Mesnard with the Town Clerk, to declare the new route open.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Billericay schools are appealing for volunteers from the local community to join their Governing Bodies providing an excellent opportunity to make a difference in the community. Anyone over the age of 18 can apply so if you have 6-8 hours a month to spare and would like to help Billericay schools continue to deliver the highest possible standards of education, contact the School Governors' One-Stop Shop on 020 7354 9805 or email: info@sgoss.org.uk or view their website: www.sgoss.org.uk.

LAKE MEADOWS SWIMMING POOL.

The swimming pool in Lake Meadows is now under new management and renamed First Strokes. This company are expert in managing swimming facilities and have agreed a new arrangement with Basildon District Council. First Strokes are currently investing £50,000 in major improvements and modernisation of this much needed facility in our town and will offer extended swimming lessons to all ages and abilities. Details of opening times and lessons can be found on <http://www.firststrokes.com/billericay.html>

SUNDAY ROTA FOR PHARMACY PROVISION

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

Sunday 1 February Shadforths
 Sunday 8 February Lloyds
 Sunday 15 February Alliance

This rota will be repeated thereafter until 29 March 2009 when a review of pharmacy services within Billericay will take place.

CATER MUSEUM

74 High Street, Billericay.
 Tel: 01277 622023

Opening Hours Monday to
 Saturday 2.00pm to 5.00pm

FEBRUARY 2009

A Stitch in Time:
 View the sewing machines
 in our collection!

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Future Dates For Your Diary

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3 Planning
 Tuesday 17 Planning
 Tuesday 24 Environment

MARCH

Tuesday 3 Planning
 Thursday 5 Finance & General Purposes
 Tuesday 17 Planning
 Thursday 19 Town Council
 Tuesday 24 Environment
 Tuesday 31 Planning

APRIL

Thursday 2 Finance & General Purposes
 Thursday 9 Annual Town Meeting
 (opportunity for local
 government electors to ask
 questions and make
 comments)
 Tuesday 14 Planning
 Thursday 16 Town Council
 Tuesday 28 Planning

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 to the following:
 February 28 Radford Crescent Car Park
 March 28 Little Burstead Car Park

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
Moira 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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