



Billericay Town Crier

YOUR QUALITY COUNCIL

October 2014

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

@BillericayTC



REDEDICATION OF THE FESTIVAL GARDENS

Billericay Town Council are proud to have been given the opportunity to look after the Festival Gardens on a 25 year lease from Basildon Borough Council and to make interesting changes so that this garden situated in Crown Road, is truly a place where people can visit and find a peaceful haven.



With the help of Hallmark Care Homes and Bennetts Funeral Directors we have been able to make tasteful alterations within the garden with the installation of a new stone plinth and suitable terracing between the top and middle levels. We thank our sponsor's whole-heartedly for their generous support.

Since 1997 this garden has been a place for residents to plant a shrub in memory of loved ones in a location where they can come back from time to time to spend quiet reflective moments.

With the changes made in the garden and the care it has received this year it is looking really at its best. It was felt that a Rededication of the Festival Gardens was something special and should be celebrated.

Therefore on the 9th October, we invited our sponsors plus people who have planted shrubs in the past and those who wished to plant on this occasion, to come along and be part of the Rededication. They were joined by members of Billericay Town Council to hear, Billericay Town Council Chairman, Cllr John Buchanan, rededicate the garden to the town as a peaceful sanctuary.

The event was very well received with 34 people attending. Afterwards we adjourned to the Town Council meeting room for light refreshments.

Cllr. Peter Bowditch – Chairman, Recreation Working Party

BECOMING A TOWN COUNCILLOR

ALONG with my wife (who grew up here) I moved to Billericay in 1991 and have been here ever since. My career has been spent in IT and Programme Management which for me has meant essentially overseeing large projects which make fundamental changes in the way businesses are run. Becoming a Billericay Town Councillor is like starting a new job : you have to get to know the people, understand the rules and regulations and get to know the culture of the organisation which inevitably takes time. But training is available to help : there is a booklet called "The Good Councillor's Guide". In October I attended a short course on "Roles and Responsibilities" and my new colleagues and Town Clerk are on hand to explain some of the processes and procedures.

It has been quite a busy time : four meetings of the Planning Committee, one of the Environment Committee, two Youth Town Council meetings and one each of the Youth Town Council and IT Working Parties as well as spending an evening with the Street Pastors and a Saturday morning handing out winter salt bags and dealing with a number of issues raised by residents.

My fellow Councillors have been very welcoming – and I look forward to working with them and for our town and its residents.
Cllr Adam Adshead



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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.

1914-2014 BILLERICAY REMEMBERS A SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND

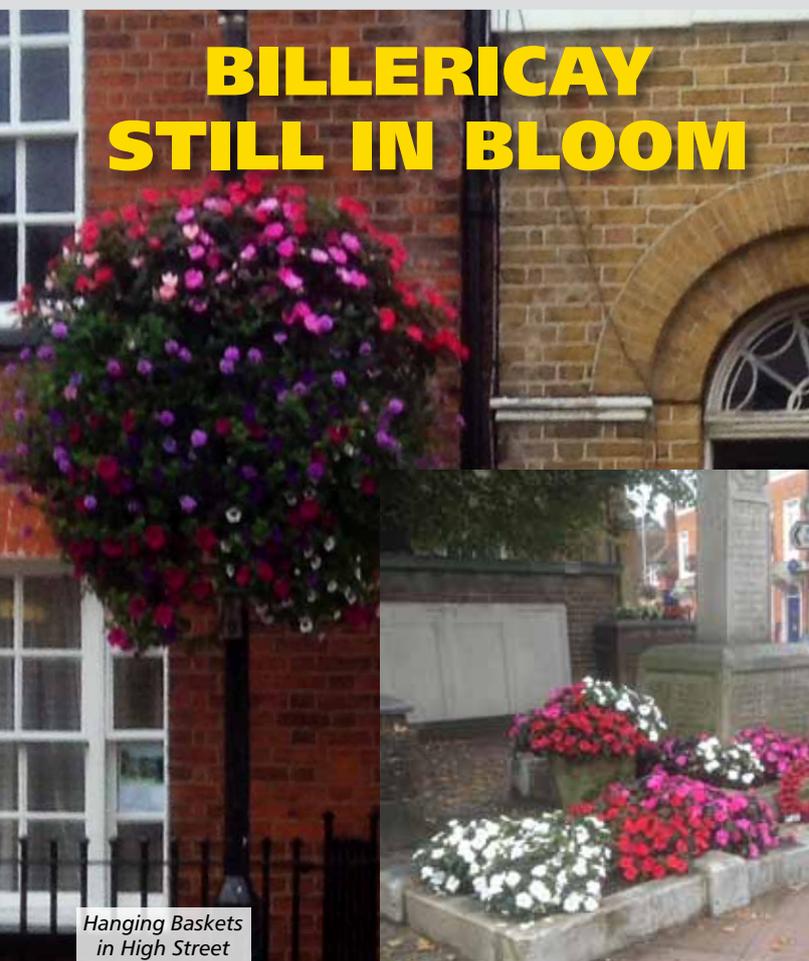


WE were delighted with the response from Billericay residents to the programme of events which the Town Council had organised with the help of schools, clubs, societies and Churches Together in Billericay.

All events took place in St Mary Magdalen, a wonderful venue which is conveniently situated in the centre of Billericay High Street. On Saturday morning the shoppers came in to view the exhibition and admire the wonderful floral displays throughout the Church. They stopped to chat over tea or coffee. People were so interested to read the stories behind many of the names on the War Memorial. They sat and read the stories on the Great War which were projected on the wall and also were delighted to hear the reactions of the Billericay High School students following their visit to the war graves. Karen Dennis from the Western Front Association was in attendance to answer questions.

On Sunday afternoon there was a programme of events starting with the singers from the Ingatestone Musical and Operetta Group who brought a lump to our throats with 'keep the home fires burning' and a little scene of the trenches and the soldiers singing Stille Nacht/Silent Night. A touch of dignity was brought to the proceedings as the Air Force Cadets read out Billericay's Great War Roll of Honour then the Last Post played, after which there was a two minute silence when poppies floated down. You could sense the poignancy in the air. Following the interval Dr. Viv Newman gave an interesting talk which included poetry read by her daughters, three air force cadets and two pupils of St Peter's RC Primary School. We finished with a rousing singalong with the Ingatestone Musical and Operetta singers. A unique and memorable event.

On Monday August 4th, which was the day that Great Britain entered the war with Germany, we held the exhibition during the day followed appropriately with a service organised by Churches Together which included songs by Marion Davis and Friends. Many then went home to switch off the lights and light their candles.



BILLERICAY STILL IN BLOOM

Hanging Baskets in High Street



Jim Shields Garden



War Memorial

WINTER SALT AND NEW SALT BINS

THE Town Council has recently received its winter salt allocation which has been distributed to local residents for use on the public highway during periods of heavy snow. This is an ECC initiative to help local communities support themselves. The Town Council has recently obtained permission to install six new salt bins in Billericay and the proposed locations are; Gainsborough Close, Kingswood Close, Jacksons Mews, Kelvedon Road, The Avenue, and The Mount.

UPDATE ON ELIZABETH COTTAGE



NO 4 High Street in Billericay is also known as Elizabeth Cottage. It is located in a prominent position at the junction of the High Street and Norsey Road where it can be seen by anyone entering the Town from Stock Road or the railway station. The cottage was built in 1903 on the site of a former Quaker chapel, complete with a small burial ground behind. Up until about 40 years ago, it was used as a private residence.

In February this year, the Town Council became aware that workmen were stripping the tiles off the roof of the cottage and removing a chimney. It seemed that full-scale demolition had commenced. The Borough Council were notified and promptly issued a Temporary Stop Notice and Injunction Order to prevent any further destruction. This was followed by an Enforcement Notice in June requiring the owners to weatherproof the building and replace the roof tiles and chimney.

These legal notices take time to come into effect and so the current state of play is that the owner must comply with the required work by 10th October. If the owner fails to comply with the notice Basildon Council can take legal action. A conviction can result in a fine of up to £20k. Furthermore, where any steps required by an enforcement notice have not been complied with, the Borough can enter land, take those steps and recover the expenses of so doing from the owner.

Unfortunately, the owner of the Elizabeth Cottage lives abroad and has not attempted to defend their actions, so this has made the serving of notices more difficult and time consuming. Hopefully a resolution will be forthcoming in the near future so this building can be repaired.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON – SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER



THE Town Council's preparations for the Christmas Lights in Billericay are now well underway. Please put the above date in your diaries and come along to the Switch On event. The Town Crier, Mr Jim Shrubbs will be in the High Street from 3.30pm and the event will start at 3.45pm outside the Chequers Public House. The Salvation Army Band will be accompanying the Mayflower School Choir as they sing much loved Christmas carols and Father Christmas will make his appearance to perform the actual switching on at 4.15pm. There will be lots of entertainment and fun for everyone, so hope to see you there!

HIGH STREET SHOP FRONTS AND SIGNS

BILLERICAY High Street has a unique range of buildings from those built over four hundred years ago to others in the last twenty years. Despite this history our extraordinary High Street creates the impression "anything goes" when it comes to shop fronts and signs. But it is not "anything goes" in our High Street. Our High Street is a designated Conservation Area. For as long as we have had a Town Council, our Planning Committee has objected to unsuitable proposals, preventing some out of place things, such as garishly painted metal shop fronts and inappropriate illuminated signs. Regrettably, it has had to spearhead battles to get unauthorised shop fronts and signs removed or improved.

One reason for this has been that until now there has not been a published and approved document to state what is, or more importantly is not, acceptable in Billericay High Street. That is all going to change.

For over a year we have been working with Basildon Council (the planning authority) to produce a "Supplementary Planning Document" on shop fronts and signs for Billericay High Street. The Document is in its final stages of approval at Basildon Council, and then a copy will be sent to every shop owner in the High Street, and to anyone who applies to make any alterations. This Document will be a "material consideration" in deciding what is acceptable, and all new shop fronts and signs will have to comply. We may not be able to get rid of all the nasties which we already have, but one by one we will be able to make sure that new developments are in keeping with our historic town.

BYTC

Youth Town Council

ON 12th July we held the 3rd Essex Urban Games event at Lake Meadows. Those that did come were treated to displays and workshops from both football and basketball freestylers as well as cheerleading demos and a skate competition at the skatepark. Check out the video on the Town Council website in the Youth Council section; www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk/youthtowncouncil.

Elections were held recently and a new two year term of office for the elected youth councillors is about to begin. It's an exciting time when we start to plan future events for the young people of Billericay. We would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to Hannah Munn, Oliver Alexander, Tom Travers and Amber Whitelock as they embark upon exciting new stages of their lives, and also to thank them for all their hard work and input to the Youth Town Council.

Winners of the 2014 Urban Games Skate Competition



 communitynews

CALLING THE YOUNG, THE OLD, AND THOSE IN BETWEEN



FOLLOWING the resounding success of the Billericay Art Trail and Festival held in July of this year, the committee are now starting to plan next year's event.

Are you an artist, a performer, a good organiser or just a Billericay resident interested in putting Billericay on the cultural map? If so come along to the open meeting of the Art Trail on 8th November at the Town Council's Coach House (just off the High Street) from 10 to 12, to find out not just what is planned but to give us your ideas for the town. If you cannot get to that meeting but are interested in taking part in any way contact Carl on 01268 767770 or carl.tale-spinner@blueyonder.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you then.

BILLERICAY CHRISTMAS MARKET 11AM-5PM SUNDAY DEC 7TH 2014

THE market has been improved each year since it started five years ago and 2014 will be no exception. Entrance and parking are **FREE** and visitors can enjoy the following : Santa's Parade, a **FREE** Santa's Grotto, **FREE** Punch & Judy sponsored by BDRA, Sponsored Kiddies rides (only £1), 120 Craft, Farmers, Trade and Charity stalls, a Continental Market, and 100 High Street businesses open especially for the day. In addition, there are two stages of live music entertainment, traditional Carols at St. Mary Magdalen church, hog roasts and other hot foods and traditional Christmas fayre, mulled wine and street entertainers. This is a fun day to launch the Christmas season, and there is a great feeling of community as friends greet each other to celebrate the beginning of Yuletide while benefiting good causes. Charities, mostly local, have benefited to the tune of £50,000 over the past 3 years. On the Saturday evening before the Market there will be a Christmas Classics Choir Concert performed by a Choir for All Seasons in the United Reform Church in Chapel Street at 7.30pm. The Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower would like to thank all sponsors of the event, especially Platinum Sponsors: Essex Auto Group, Burstead Golf Club, Para Bar Estates and Paul Robinson Solicitors who make the Christmas Market possible. To learn more about the event and how your company can be associated with the success of Billericay Christmas Market visit: www.billericaychristmasmarket.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE the High Street will be closed to traffic for the day.

A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF BILLERICAY FROM THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, BILLERICAY BRANCH

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

AT the end of November the Branch urgently requires a membership secretary. The position is suitable for male/female, any age, and is not restricted to the person having served in any of the Armed Forces.

Duties would be to collate the membership details of new and existing Branch members and their fees. Also, to take the minutes of the monthly Branch meetings held on the last Wednesday of the month, excluding August and December, which commence at 8pm and last generally for an hour or slightly more. They would be encouraged to take part in the annual Poppy Appeal collecting period, late October/early November, but this is not compulsory. They would also have the right to parade with the Branch contingent on Remembrance Day in Billericay, but again this is not compulsory.

This vital post is part of the structure of the Branch Committee and in the absence of such position being filled could result in the Branch having to close down at worst or, be absorbed into another Branch. A tragedy for our fine town to fail to have its own Branch. For further details please contact Tony Motley, Branch Standard Bearer 07742 380890 (after 7pm only).

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS OCTOBER 2014

Tuesday 28th Environment

NOVEMBER 2014

Tuesday 4th Planning

Thursday 6th Town Council

Tuesday 18th Planning

DECEMBER 2014

Tuesday 2nd Planning

Thursday 4th Finance & GP

Tuesday 9th Environment

Tuesday 16th Planning

Thursday 18th Town Council

Tuesday 30th Planning

JANUARY 2015

Tuesday 13th Planning

Tuesday 20th Environment

Tuesday 27th Planning

Thursday 29th Finance & GP

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.

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