



# Billericay Town Crier

May 2016

[www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk)

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

## CELEBRATION OF HM THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

To celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales invited Her Majesty The Queen to light the Principal Beacon on 21st April at Windsor Castle. This was followed by the lighting of over 1,000 beacons throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK overseas Territories and Commonwealth Countries to celebrate this landmark birthday.

Here in Billericay our beacon was lit and a plaque unveiled to commemorate this. The beacon was lit by the Citizen of the Year, Phil Norton. Attendees gave a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday and the evening was rounded off by the singing of God Save the Queen.

Cllr Jo Clark, Chairman of the Commemoration Working Party said, "It was an enormous privilege working alongside my fellow councillors to organise this amazing community event which celebrated the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen. The Town Council were delighted to participate by lighting our beacon at Sun Corner."



Crowds and members of the 2393 (Billericay) Squadron ATC

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The Town Council held a Citizen of the Year competition for the first time this year with the winner being given the honour of lighting the beacon for the Queen's birthday on 21st April. Residents were asked to nominate a Billericay resident that had made a real difference within their community. Nominees for Citizen of the Year were;

**Hillary Alltimes** for her voluntary work with the Toddler Group at Billericay Baptist Church.

**David Bremner** for services to the Billericay Society and preservation of Billericay's heritage.

**Phil Norton** for the work he does as the Street Pastor co-ordinator.

**Rosie Novis** for her work at Friends of Lake Meadows and Billericay Parents Forum.

**Ken Tout** for running the Good Companions Club and supporting many elderly and lonely residents.

A panel of councillors unanimously decided the winner should be **Phil Norton**. Chairman Jim Devlin said that each of the nominees were very deserving of the award and it had made the task of selecting a winner very hard indeed.



Council Chairman, Jim Devlin, with Citizen of the Year Nominees; David Bremner, Phil Norton, Cllr Jim Devlin and Rosie Novis

LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
FOUNDATION

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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.

@BillericayTC



## TOWN CLERK MEETS PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

On Wednesday, 3rd February, seven 3 and 4 year olds from **The Treehouse Club** went to visit Deborah Tonkiss, the Town Clerk, as part of their research on 'people around our community'. Deborah was glad to meet with the children and explain the workings of the Council.



Seven children from The Treehouse Club (Zak, Bella, William, Millie, Sophia, Rafa, Georgia) outside the offices of Billericay Town Council with staff members, Kate and Josh.

### The children asked the following questions:

- Q** – What do you do in your job and what is a Town Clerk?  
**A** – A Town Clerk looks after their local council and carries out their decisions. There are 20 councillors who look after Billericay. Things the Council do include switching on the Christmas lights, providing the hanging baskets in summer and looking after the gardens and flower beds in the High Street.
- Q** – Why did you choose to be a Town Clerk?  
**A** – It just happened. When my children were little, I decided to work part-time for the Parish Council in my village and then when they got older I went full-time as the Town Clerk for Billericay.
- Q** – Do you sign marriage certificates?  
**A** – No the Council doesn't have the authority to marry anyone.
- Q** – Do you speak to the mayor every week?  
**A** – Billericay Town Council doesn't have a Mayor. We have a Chairman who wears a medal of office. However, Brentwood and Basildon have a Mayor.
- Q** – Do you have any influence in green issues and the environment?  
**A** – We are consulted on planning issues and have some influence on how green areas and parks are managed. We want to keep Billericay nice so children can play and have a pleasant place to walk.
- Q** – How do you work within the local community?  
**A** – We get to know and work with lots of groups in the community on various projects. It could be a regular event such as a Litter Pick or the Christmas Lights switch on or a one off such as the WW1 Exhibition.
- Q** – How old do you have to be to go on to the youth council?  
**A** – For the Youth Council you have to be 11 years old and attending one of the Billericay senior schools.

## TREE PLANTING LAKE MEADOWS



The Mayor of Basildon, Councillor Don Morris was joined by Cllr Peter Bowditch from Billericay Town Council and Jane Bennett of Bennetts Funeral Directors to plant cherry trees at Lake Meadows Park in Billericay recently.

Bennetts Funeral Directors have sponsored the Cherry Tree Project 2016 to celebrate 125 years in business by planting 125 trees in various sites in the Billericay and Brentwood areas. The planting of 25 ornamental cherry trees in

Lake Meadows Park is part of this project and will make an elegant and impressive spring display by creating an imposing new avenue of trees in this popular park. Billericay Town Council provided funding for the ground work preparation that was required prior to the planting. Town Councillor Bowditch said "The Town Council was pleased to be able to support this marvellous enhancement to the park".

## JIM SHIELDS GARDEN DESIGN COMPETITION

The Town Council now own Jim Shields Garden at the northern end of the High Street and we are looking at ways of improving and enhancing the area as a focal point for those entering the High Street.

Do you have any ideas of what you would like to see there – perhaps flower beds, topiary or even a sculpture? The Town Council is keen to encourage budding garden designers or landscapers, whether individuals or a community group, to submit their designs to the Town Council.

The winning entry will receive a £100 prize and the pleasure of seeing their idea come to life. Designs to be received by Friday 2nd September 2016.



## CIVIC SERVICE

On Sunday 13th March, Billericay Town Council held its Annual Civic Service at the Queens Park Community Church. The service was organised by Churches Together in Billericay (CTB) on the theme of "Never On Your Own" and attended by members of the wider community and representatives of many local groups. Cllr. Jim Devlin, Chairman of the Council, spoke about the problems of loneliness in our Community as well as highlighting good work that is currently happening. He said "I did not realise that the issue of isolation in the community was so big. We all need to try and do something to address this for the sake of the whole of Society".

There were also short talks by Edna Shavdia of Contact the Elderly, who run monthly Tea Parties for elderly people who live on their own, and Jodie Connelly of Brighter Opportunities for Supported Play (BOSP) about their work with special needs children and their parents.

The service was conducted by Rev. David Bagwell and music was supplied by the High Voltage Big Band.

If you would like to help volunteer groups in their work with people who are lonely or isolated please contact the Town Council who will try to put you in contact with a local group who need help. The Town Council can also put you in contact with groups who are able to assist.

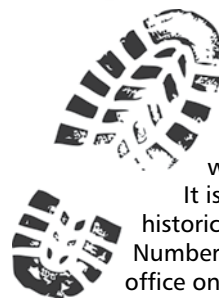


## COMMONWEALTH DAY

Billericay Town Council celebrated Commonwealth Day by raising the Commonwealth flag at Sun Corner on Monday 14th March. This was Billericay's small contribution to the much larger events attended by the Queen in London. Councillors attended the flag raising and the Chairman, Cllr. Jim Devlin, read out the Commonwealth Proclamation prior to raising the flag. Afterwards he commented "It was only a small token event raising the Commonwealth flag, but it means a lot to this country to be members of the Commonwealth and it was good for Billericay to be part of the celebrations".



## TOWN TRAIL WALKS 2016



Each summer we arrange Town Trail walks which are led by a knowledgeable local person. The 2016 dates are; Sunday 26th June, Saturday 23rd July, Sunday 14th August and Saturday 10th September. All walks start from the Railway station at 2pm.

It is a great way to learn more about the historic buildings and characters of Billericay. Numbers are limited so please call the Town Council office on 01277 625732 to reserve your place(s).



## communitynews

### ABC – AFFECTED BY CANCER

*Are you affected by cancer and aged between 18-40 years?*

THEN WHY NOT JOIN US to meet others in a similar situation to yourself.

Whatever you are going through, you are not alone. Come along and meet us for a chat at Reids of Billericay on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 7pm-9pm, 66-68 Laindon Road, Billericay, Essex CM12 9LD.

Just turn up or call 01375 648170 for more information.



### THE BILLERICAY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Have you heard of us? We are a group of men who get together for lunch on the last Thursday of each month.

Come and enjoy a three course lunch, usually followed by a speaker. We also have coach trips and special events.

Why not come along and join us at The Banqueting Suite, Mount Avenue, Hutton CM13 2NS.

If you are interested call Ron on 01277 633115  
email address: firefighterpm@btinternet.com

### BILLERICAY DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION TIME CAPSULE

The BDRA was founded in May 1926 and celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. A series of celebratory events and initiatives is planned.

One of the initiatives will be a time capsule, which the Cater Museum has kindly agreed to display. Our Time Capsule will not however contain objects, but thoughts. We will open the Time Capsule on our 100th Anniversary in 2026, and it will be very interesting to see how many of the hopes have been fulfilled and how few of the fears have been realised. An example could be:- hope there will be enough GPs in Billericay; fear that Elizabeth Cottage will be demolished and replaced with a multi-storey block of flats.

We therefore invite you to submit your hopes and fears for Billericay, for potential inclusion in the time capsule. The Capsule will be unveiled at a special event in the autumn to which we shall invite a selection of those who have contributed to its contents. It would be much appreciated if all responses could be received by 31st May. Please contact resident@bdra.org.

### BUTTSBURY (BILLERICAY) WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We are a friendly group who meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8.00pm for an 8.15pm start at Canon Roche Church Hall, Laindon Road, Billericay CM11 9LL. Each month we have a varied programme of Speakers, Craft Nights and Social Events. For more information contact Jan Nash on 01277 630147.



## Focus on Local Charities



### REMUS MEMORIAL HORSE SANCTUARY

**DID YOU KNOW** that just outside Billericay, near Buttsbury Wash, there is a horse rescue centre and animal sanctuary that is home to over 200 rescued animals including 74 horses, 9 donkeys, 1 mule, 2 cows, 54 sheep, 20 goats and 16 cats!

**Formed in 1983** – It costs approx £440,000 per year to run the Sanctuary. We rely entirely on donations and money from fund raising events throughout the year.

**Get involved** – Why not visit the Sanctuary at one of our Open Days? Held on the first Sunday of each month between May and October we offer a variety of competitions and games to entertain the whole family, refreshments, Children’s Corner, stalls and a chance to meet all the animals up close! Our July and September dates include a Fun Dog Show. We organise afternoon teas, adult workshops and much more.

We would love to give a fun and light-hearted audio visual talk at your school, group or club.

For a gift with a difference, why not sponsor an animal for your friend or relative? Why not become a member of the Sanctuary and receive a discount on admission to Open Days and you will be supporting the animals or get involved and volunteer with us!

We work extremely hard in the local Community trying to ease the suffering of the many thousands of horses caught up in the largest ever horse welfare crisis.

Contact us on 01277 356191 or email at [info@remussanctuary.org](mailto:info@remussanctuary.org)  
Visit our website for more information at [www.remussanctuary.org](http://www.remussanctuary.org)



### VICTIM SUPPORT CHARITY

VICTIM SUPPORT is the charity for victims and witnesses of crime in England and Wales. We are independent of the police and other statutory agencies but work in partnership with them. Our caseworkers and volunteers provide emotional and practical help to anyone who needs it, regardless of the type of crime they have suffered. Our support is free, confidential, led by what the victim wants and continues for as long as it takes. We are here to listen without judging, to offer advice, advocacy and specialist services, and to help people navigate the criminal justice system. Because we understand the impact that crime has on people and their communities, we are able to work with them to help rebuild their confidence in themselves and their trust in others. We work with clients who have experienced a crime very recently but we also support those who have experienced a crime against them in the past. It does not have to have been reported to the police for Victim Support to be able to help. The website address for Victim Support is [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk) and the telephone number for the Victim Assessment Referral Centre, which is based in Ingatestone, Essex, is 0300 30 30 165.

### HAMELIN TRUST U MATTER 2 – A NEW SERVICE FOR UNPAID ADULT CARERS

U MATTER 2 is a free service for unpaid adult carers across the districts of Basildon, Brentwood, Rochford, Castle Point and Chelmsford. We offer daytime, evening and weekend activities providing opportunities for carers to meet each other, socialise, share information and learn new skills and hobbies that can then be carried out at home with, or alongside the person that they care for. We also offer practical support at home for our carers which may involve looking after their loved one, whilst they get on with chores or we can help with housework. We can also support carers when attending appointments, shopping or simply an afternoon out. Upcoming activities include Pamper Sessions, Yoga, Pilates and classes in South African Cooking, Floristry and Furniture Restoration. For a full copy of our full activities timetable/more information please contact Liane at [lianeiles@hamelintrust.org.uk](mailto:lianeiles@hamelintrust.org.uk) or call 01277 653889.



### PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

LAKE MEADOWS Photography Competition!

**FREE ENTRY** – Adult and Junior classes

**ANY SUBJECT** – lake, wildfowl, people, sports, trees, sunsets etc, etc  
Great Cash prizes! Closing date midnight on August 31st.

**Why not have a go?** No special cameras needed! Mobile phone photos are OK. Rules and entry form are now on our website [www.lakemeadows.org.uk](http://www.lakemeadows.org.uk) Or for more information contact: [secretary@lakemeadows.com](mailto:secretary@lakemeadows.com) or ring 07843 860 135 (answerphone)

### BILLERICAY WI CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY



CONGRATULATIONS to the Billericay Branch of the Women’s Institute who celebrate the 100th Anniversary of their group in 2016. Billericay also has the honour of being the longest established branch in Essex.

### BILLERICAY PATIENT PARTICIPATION EXHIBITION IN THE LIBRARY WEEK COMMENCING 6 JUNE 2016 AND PATIENT PARTICIPATION AND FREE WELLBEING EVENT 11 JUNE 2016

For this new event organised by **Billericay GP patient volunteers** there will be a table in the Library publicising Patient Participation Groups during the **National Patient Participation Awareness Week** commencing 6 June and ending on 11 June 2016 with a Patient Participation and Wellbeing Event in Billericay.

**Patient Participation Groups** are volunteers who are registered patients at their local GP Practice. There are seven GP Practices in Billericay.

These groups are now required by the NHS to ensure there is a local perspective on communicating with the General Practice. The aim is to achieve better information and service for the patients, and feedback to the medical practitioners. For example in recent years Patient Participation Groups in Billericay have organised talks at their surgeries in the evenings on a range of informative medical subjects such as diabetes, better use of medication, osteoporosis, heart attacks, stroke awareness, and skin cancers.

At the **Patient Participation and Wellbeing Event** on Saturday 11th June participants will be able to sign up for healthy activities from Tai Chi and Yoga, to relaxed running, cycling and walking groups using pathways, bridleways and local country parks, as well as music and choir singing activities. At venues in Billericay, the Canon Roche Hall behind the Roman Catholic Church on Laindon Road, the Reading Rooms on Billericay High Street, both in and outside St Mary Magdalen Church, also on the High Street there will be a range of information displays and the various wellbeing activities.

Full event details will be on the Billericay Medical Practice website from May onwards, and publicity posters and leaflets will be circulating in Billericay during the month before the June 11th event date. Follow the link below to the website and click on the Patient Group menu tab.

Website: [www.gps-billericayhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.gps-billericayhealthcentre.co.uk)

Enquiries about this event may also be made direct to John Wheeler tel. 01277 651968.



## "WHISTLE FOR THE SOMME" 7.30am 1st JULY 2016

THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION (Essex Branch) is organising the "Whistle for the Somme" commemorations in Billericay. At 7.30am on the morning of Friday 1st July three short blasts on a whistle will be sounded at the Town War Memorial to mark the moment one hundred years ago when officers blew their whistles and led their men out of their trenches and advanced over No-Man's-Land at the opening of the Battle of the Somme. The losses that day were the worst suffered in the history of the British Army, 19,240 men were killed and 38,230 were wounded or made prisoner of war. The Battle continued for more than four months, drawing to a close on 18th November. On the 1st July 1916 three Billericay men were killed in action and fourteen more were to die before the Battle was finally called to a halt, many others fought and were wounded. An estimated 1,000,000 men from the British Empire, French and German forces were killed, wounded or missing as a result of the Battle of the Somme 1916.

You are invited to join us at the Billericay Town War Memorial from 7.20am on Friday 1st July to remember those men from our town who fought and died, together with the tens of thousands of others from both sides who were killed. Following the whistle blasts there will be a short silence to bring the brief commemoration to a close.

If you would like more information on the commemoration please contact Karen Dennis on 01277 655871 or email: [billericaysgreatwar@gmail.com](mailto:billericaysgreatwar@gmail.com).

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS JUNE 2016

Thur 9 Finance & GP  
Tue 14 Planning  
Thur 23 Town Council  
Tue 28 Planning

## JULY 2016

Tue 5 Environment  
Tue 12 Planning  
Thur 21 Finance & GP  
Tue 26 Planning  
Thur 28 Town Council

## AUGUST 2016

Tue 9 Planning  
Tue 23 Planning

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.

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL BIDS FAREWELL TO LONG SERVING COUNCILLORS

Four of the founding members of Billericay Town Council stood down at the recent elections. Cllrs. John Buchanan, Rod Rapley, Trevor Stansfield and Marion Wilson have been on the Council since 1997 so between them have clocked up 76 years of service to Billericay. Six other councillors also took the election as an opportunity to retire and the Council would like to thank them all for the work and commitment they have shown during their term(s) of office.

## TWO NEW FACES FOR TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council would like to welcome two new faces following the recent election.

Victoria McManus has lived in South Green all her life. Victoria is married with two young children and also serves as a trustee of Billericay Educational Trust. Mark Thomas has been a resident of Billericay since 1973, has three grown up children who all attended local schools and has a keen interest in environmental issues and current affairs.



Chairman Jim Devlin (centre back) with back row left to right: Peter Bowditch, John Buchanan, John Bellringer, Rod Rapley. Front row left to right: Trevor Stansfield, Ian Davie, Susan McCaffery, Marion Wilson, Emma Willis.

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

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