



Billericay Town Crier

May 2017

www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

FOUND



**STATUE OF
THE CHILD
IN THE PARK
TOWN
COUNCIL
DONATES
£1,000**

After the despicable theft, in mid-February, of the statue of The Child in the Park from the beautiful area of Lake Meadows, the Town Council was delighted to be informed recently that Police recovered the statue from Brentwood. As the statue is loved by generations of residents and holds so many memories it was truly heartening to learn that it is now being safely stored until it is remounted on its plinth.

After the statue was stolen The Friends of Lake Meadows organised an appeal to raise money for a suitable replacement. Billericay Town Council have long been involved with the development of Lake Meadows including contributing to the original statue which was commissioned in 2000 as a "gift from the Children of the Past and the Present to the Children of the Future," funding the creation of the Rhododendron Walk, and developing the skateboard park for the town's youth. We were only too pleased to make a donation of £1,000 to the Appeal Fund made up of a grant of £526 and the collection from the recent Civic Service of £474.

The Town Council's donation, and the fund established to replace the statue, will now be used to securely reinstall the statue in Lake Meadows with the assistance of the sculptor and other specialists.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



April Simmonds with her brother Fraser

THIS IS THE second year that Billericay Town Council has made a Citizen of the Year Award, however for the first time we have also made an award to the Young Citizen of the Year.

Our first Young Citizen of the Year is six year old April Simmonds in recognition of her devotion and caring towards her little brother, Fraser, who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. She plays an active role in her brother's care and is the protective big sister helping him with daily tasks and adapting her games so he can join in. April is an example to us all of helping others which is remarkable at such a young age. April was presented with her award at a special school assembly at Sunnymede Infants School on 8th May. April's mother, Shelley, is trekking twenty miles up Snowdon in June, carrying Fraser in a

specialty adapted back pack, to raise money for research. If you would like to donate please visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/frasersimmonds.

This year we decided to award the title of Citizen of the Year to Carl Roberts. Carl is a member of the Billericay Community Cinema and is responsible for scheduling and choosing the films that are shown, the technical side of making the film trailers, projection and training other projectionists. He now offers his services voluntarily to support community groups in creating promotional videos for them to use on their websites and social media. It was while working with these groups that Carl conceived the idea of the Billericay Volunteers Network bringing volunteers and good causes together. Carl was presented with his award at a screening of the Billericay Community Cinema on the 11th May in front of many of those who have seen the good work he does.

Jim Devlin, Town Council Chairman, said, "It is gratifying to know of the efforts of both our winners. April shows that caring for others is rewarding in itself and Carl is clearly a great asset to the community."



April receiving her award at a special assembly at Sunnymede Infants School



Billericay Citizen of the Year Carl Roberts and Cllr Jim Devlin

For further information and general enquiries contact: Town Clerk

Billericay Town Council • The Loft • Crown Yard • High Street • Billericay CM12 9BX

T: 01277 625732 • E: townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk • W: www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

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



BillericayTownCouncil



Billericay Community Choir

TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC SERVICE

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 5th, at Emmanuel Church, the Town Council held its fourth Civic Service. The service was led by the Rev. Paul Carr, Team Rector, who was joined by the Rev. Dan Pierce, Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry, and Rev. Ian Smith, Billericay Baptist Church.

We were very pleased to be joined this year by the Mayor of Basildon and his wife. It was also well supported by Town Councillors, representatives of clubs and societies and members of the general public.

Every year the Civic Service has a theme. This year's was Voluntary Projects at Home and Abroad. The Chairman of the Council, Cllr. Jim Devlin, explained the theme and introduced representatives from The Lions and The Rotary Club who told us how their groups help the community and the Rev. Margaret Fowler spoke about the Chiamandra School in Kenya and its close links with Buttsbury Junior School.

The Billericay Community Choir, with fifty five of its members, sang arrangements of four songs representing the four seasons, The Rose, Summertime, Autumn Leaves and The Winter's Tale.

A collection was taken and the proceeds were donated towards funding a suitable reminder of the 'Child in the Park' statue continuing the ethos of "a gift from the children of the past and present to the children of the future."

Refreshments were served following the service which concluded a very enjoyable afternoon.



TOWN COUNCIL WISHES CLLR KAY TWITCHEN A HAPPY RETIREMENT

AT THE TOWN Council meeting on 9th March Councillors said farewell to County Councillor Kay Twitchen OBE who is standing down at the election in May. Kay has represented Billericay and Burstead as an elected County Councillor since 1997. She has been a stalwart ally of the Town Council during her time as our County Councillor. She has always been there to help when the Council or local residents have had issues that needed resolving at County Hall. Jim Devlin, Chairman of the Town Council, said, "It has been a pleasure working with Kay over the years. I have taken comfort from the knowledge that she was always there to help. We will miss her as she always attended our meetings of full Council and wish her well in what I am sure will be an active retirement."

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 20TH APRIL

THE ANNUAL MEETING was held in the Chantry Way Centre for the first time since the Town Council took control of the building. Our guest speaker was Dr Celia Skinner, Medical Director of Basildon & Thurrock University Hospital. Dr Skinner outlined plans for the Mid and South Essex Hospitals, Broomfield, Basildon and Southend, and the options that are being finalised before going out to public consultation.

There was a detailed discussion regarding the rationale for designating one hospital as a Specialist Emergency Hospital whilst retaining a 24/7 A&E service at all three hospitals. Dr Skinner told us consultation may be delayed slightly because of the General Election and the rules that govern consultations during election periods, but if everything else remains on track we should start to see changes to improve the service early next year.

Reports on Finance and Planning were given by Cllrs Adshead and Mitchelmore. Cllr Jim Devlin, Chairman of the Town Council, thanked Dr Skinner for her presentation and gave residents an opportunity to ask questions.

TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT KEPT LOW EIGHT YEARS IN A ROW

RESIDENTS HAVE NOW received Basildon Borough Council's community tax rise information through letter boxes. Despite the rise in the Borough's tax the Town Council is proud to report that the precept, the local tax paid to the Town Council, has remained the same for eight years.

TOWN TRAIL WALKS 10th June, 9th July and 20th August

AN EXCELLENT WAY to get to know our town is to go on a Billericay Town Council accompanied walk. Historical and current information is shared with walkers by volunteer guides. Its also a great way to get out in the fresh air and take part in light walking – a recommended way to exercise. Contact the Town Clerk for further information.

TOWN COUNCIL SPRING CLEANS

THE TOWN COUNCIL held a Litter Pick on Saturday, 20th May, targeting the High Street and its surroundings including the Festival Gardens. Volunteers donned hi-viz tabards, equipped themselves with litter pickers and black sacks and set out to grab any litter they could find. We met at the Town Council Offices and from there spread out over the target area. Thanks to all who came along to help us spring clean our town.

DELAY TO LOCAL PLAN TIMETABLE

IN EARLY APRIL Basildon Borough Council announced a delay to their latest Local Plan timetable with the final draft Local Plan expected to be available in July. However, on the 19th April Basildon proposed a further study by experts specifically to review the policies covering two major problem areas raised by residents: development on Green Belt and infrastructure.

This additional review could take up to six months suggesting that the draft Local Plan will now not become available until the end of the year, although no dates have yet been published.

When the final draft Local Plan is published "Regulation 19 Consultation" will begin. This different from previous consultations in that individuals and groups will only be allowed to comment on the "soundness" of the plan – and not upon its proposed content or impact upon our town.

For a plan to be "sound" it must meet the following criteria which are defined in the National Policy Framework:

Positively prepared – the plan should be based on a strategy which attempts to meet the Borough's Objectively Assessed Need for homes, jobs and infrastructure where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development. If appropriate any unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities should be included, but other authorities can be asked to assist by taking development which our own Borough cannot address.

Justified – the plan should be based upon a credible and robust evidence base;

Effective – the plan should be able to deliver what it claims is needed during its time scale;

Consistent with National Policy – primarily defined in the National Planning Policy Framework

Around three months after the "Regulation 19 Consultation" the Independent examination of the plan would take place, and if found to be sound would then be adopted. The latest delays suggest this will not happen until towards the end of 2018.

TRI-ANNUAL TOWN GUIDE

THE TOWN COUNCIL has been producing the Town Guide bi-annually since 1997. The Guide provides information regarding: clubs, activities, societies and services within the town. However, as the information changes very little over two years the Town Council has decided to produce the Guide every three years to ensure prudent financial management and that the Guide is not published when there are only minor updates. It also planned that the 2018 Town Guide will be funded by including advertisements creating further financial savings. If residents have any feedback on the Guide or the Town Council's plans for its tri-annual production please contact the Town Clerk.

BILLERICAY IN BLOOM

BILLERICAY BLOOMS FOR 19TH YEAR

IN THE 19TH year of Billericay in Bloom, spring has sprung and its the time to prepare your garden for entry into this popular competition. Can your garden dazzle our judges? Everyone stands a chance so why not get prepared and enter your garden. You might win!



GARDEN GUARDIANS NEEDED

THE FESTIVAL GARDENS, at the top of Crown Road, and the Jim Shields Garden at the junction of Western Road and the High Street, are green spaces in Billericay town. The Festival Gardens are designed to be a place of tranquillity where residents have shrubs planted to commemorate loved ones, while the Jim Shields garden is a smaller space that provides a welcoming piece of greenery at the heart of the town. Cub Pack 6th Billericay Cassini have shown community spirit recently by collecting litter in the Festival Gardens in April as one of the Cubs' grandads goes there to remember his late wife.

As both these green spaces are often spoilt by litter the Town Council are looking for volunteers to become Garden Guardians. If you have the time and care about the town the Town Council will provide you with litter picking equipment such as litter picker, hi-viz jacket, and black sacks. You will need to pop into the Town Council office to register your interest with the Town Clerk and to collect the equipment. For further information please contact the Town Clerk.





BYTC

Youth Town Council

THE BILLERICAY YOUTH Town Council is an active youth town council formed of around twenty students from all over Billericay. Our young people range from ages 11-18. Our aim is to help out in the community and the youth of our town. Over the past few years, we have arranged many fund raising events such as a mother's day arts and crafts, a table top sale and cake sale, along with an upcoming Disco event. We have also helped out volunteering in the community such as marshalling at the fire works night and accompanying Santa, the carol service at the Christmas lights switch on and have held a Disco. We hold a meeting every other Tuesday to discuss our work in the community and hope to continue to help. Please contact the Town Clerk for further information.



OLD BILLERICAY

THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS No. 63 when it was an off licence under the name of J.E. Morris. The Morris connection with this building goes back a long way; there are records of Frederick Morris, a Grocer and Tallow Chandler, trading from here in 1848. The building had been

known as "Poplar Chase," a name that is said to stem from the line of Poplars that lined the back drive up from Western Road.

As you can see, the shop front is a fairly standard double fronted one and nothing like the Georgian style bow front that we see today. Many people think the bow front is very old and it certainly has that feel and style; however, it only dates from around 1960. A few years ago the shop was taken over by Strada, the pizza chain, who renovated the bow front to "as new" condition. The building is now a Pizza Express outlet.



communitynews

NEWS FROM MILL MEADOWS SOCIETY



Our grass cutters are back or should I say our Red Poll Cattle comprising Mama, who is 14 years old and 19 youngsters who have all been wintering in a barn and are very happy to see fresh grass and have a run

around. Red Poll are a traditional breed, native to East Anglia, and are ideally suited to grazing in Mill Meadows. Dogs are a hazard to cattle and must be kept under control, on a lead, at all times. Members of the Society check on the cattle daily. If you are interested in helping and/or would like to join, the annual membership is £4. This includes a regular newsletter, meetings and guided tours throughout the year. Please go to our website www.millmeadows.org.uk.

The Society is preparing a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for funds to upgrade existing trails and create new trails with information on the history as well as the natural history of the site. The bid includes improvements to footpaths, bridges and maps, with information being available on new boards or lecterns and on mobile devices from a new website allowing people to track the location of the cattle. The HLF has asked that young people are involved with the projects, specifically the pedestrian survey and setting up a database to supply some of the information. Billericay School and Scout Groups have been approached and are happy to support the bid in principle. We been asked to attend a Billericay Youth Town Council meeting to discuss the project. Alan Talboys – Hon. Treasurer Mill Meadows Society.

FC REDWING

FREE FOOTBALL FOR 4 to 6 year olds. Training takes place every Saturday at Barleylands, the emphasis is firmly on the kids having fun.

For more information on how your child can claim a free place in this amazing academy please email Head of Academy Mark Gordon at: fredwingacademy@gmail.com

BILLERICAY BEER FESTIVAL

BILLERICAY LIONS ARE pleased to announce that the 8th Billericay Beer Festival will take place at Billericay Football Club from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th June. As well as the usual superb selection of over fifty real ales and cider, the Music Marquee will again be providing entertainment on the pitch and we will announce the programme in the run up to the festival. Hot and Cold food will be available over the whole weekend. The event has become an increasingly popular community event but Billericay Lions also want to benefit the wider population by raising as much as they can to support their ongoing work with local charities and good causes.



READING ROOMS SOCIAL MEDIA WHIZZ

THE READING ROOMS comprises a centrally located hall and conference room for hire in the High Street. Run solely by volunteers it needs a social media savvy person to market the venue on facebook and twitter. If you have 1-2 hours to spare per week and are interested please contact: Chairman, Keith Wood, email: creaturesgreatandsmall@btconnect.com or tel: 01277 202499.



JOIN THE BILLERICAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

THE ROYAL BRITISH Legion is the UK's leading Armed Forces charity helping and supporting those who have served and their families. Men and women of all ages, whether they have served in the Armed Forces or not are welcome to join. Through the network of branches and clubs, countrywide and overseas, members participate in social, fund raising and welfare activities and ensures:

- Remembrance is kept alive and that the sacrifices our brave Service men and women have made are never forgotten.
- The ex-Service community has a voice and that their concerns are brought to the public eye.

Billericay Branch meets on the last Wednesday of every month (except August and December) at 8pm in the 2nd Billericay Scouts building, 56 Laindon Road, Billericay, CM12 9LD.

For enquiries and membership please contact: email billericay.secretary@rbl.community

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW AT BILLERICAY METHODIST PRE-SCHOOL

Billericay Methodist Church Western Road, Billericay, Essex CM12 9DT



Opening hours Monday – Friday 9.15am – 12.15pm term time only. Billericay Methodist Pre-school is run as part of the Methodist Church. Children are accepted from the age of two years. It is registered and inspected by Ofsted, and the staff receive regular on going training.

For more information please see:

www.billericaymethodistpreschool.co.uk or tel: 01277 624533

CHANTRY WAY CENTRE COMMUNITY FACILITY FOR HIRE

THE TOWN COUNCIL has taken over the running of the community building in Chantry Way (situated behind Ravens Bakery and Harry's Bar just off the High Street) from Basildon Borough Council. There is a large meeting room and kitchen facilities available to hire daytime, evenings and weekends at very competitive rates which are discounted for over 50's and community groups. If you are interested and would like further information please contact the Town Clerk on 0177 625732 or email: bookings@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Some of the groups that meet there are shown below. If you would like to be put in touch with any of them please contact the Town Council office.

Group

Billericay Society

Billericay Horticultural Society

Billericay Model Railway Group

Good Companions Club

Mayflower Wine Club

Norsey Wood Society

Pilatezone

Sixty Plus Welcome Club

Stepping Forward Bereavement Group

Meets

Wednesday monthly

Monday monthly

Wednesday monthly

2nd & 4th Wednesdays monthly

Wednesday monthly

Monday quarterly

Tuesday evenings 7.45pm

Tues, Thurs, Fri mornings from 9.30

1st and 3rd Saturday monthly

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

JUNE 2017

Tue 6	Planning
Tue 20	Planning
Thur 22	Full Council
Tue 27	Environment

JULY 2017

Tue 4	Planning
Thur 13	Finance & GP
Tue 18	Planning
Thur 27	Full Council

AUGUST 2017

Tue 8	Planning
Tue 22	Planning
Tue 29	Environment

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.

BOARD GAMES FOR ALL

THE BILLERICAY BOARD Games Club holds games meet-ups at the Crown on Billericay High Street on the first Tuesday of the month from 7pm. We are a friendly and relaxed group, who enjoy playing all sorts of games, and sharing our enthusiasm with other people.

The range of board games available has moved on a lot since the days of Monopoly and Cleudo. Some of our favourites include the word-based team game "Codenames", the co-operative game "Pandemic", the quick-fire bluffing game "Skull", the nostalgic family game "Escape from Atlantis" among many more.

Our group has proved so popular that we have also started meeting up in the library on the second Saturday of the month to allow children and families to play games together. Although these morning meetings are aimed at those not yet of pub-going age, they are open to anyone.

Anyone is welcome; if you would like to try it out come along to the Crown or the Library; there is no fee and no need to book ahead. Search on Facebook for our Billericay Board Game Club page to see all of our events. Come and play!



Learning to play "Robo Rally" over a few drinks



Fun and Games at the Library

BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Name	Address	Phone No.	E-Mail	Ward
Cllr A Adshead	29 The Meadow Way CM11 2HL	01277 632104	adam.adshead@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr J Blair	35 Sun Street CM12 9LW	07814 166288	jessica.blair@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr R Chapman	99 Church Street CM11 2TS	01277 657696	robert.chapman@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr J Clark	33 Carson Road CM11 1SA	01277 659842	jo.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr R Clark	1 Wick Glen CM12 0HS	07802 425842	richard.clark@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Dansey	39 Ian Road CM12 0JZ	07821 586786	james.dansey@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr M Dear	12 Redwing Drive CM11 2PG	01277 622499	marie.dear@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Devlin	231 Perry Street CM12 0NZ	01277 656937	jim.devlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr C Dyer	6 Montpelier Close CM12 0UH	01277 625732	colin.dyer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr D Hayden	Laurel Cottage 7 The Grove CM11 1AU	01277 656221	derek.hayden@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr J Hughes	4 Stuart Way CM11 2LJ	01277 654884	james.hughes@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr L Mitchelmore	32 Bellevue Road CM12 9HB	01277 658111	lesley.mitchelmore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr V MacManus	31 Kings Way CM11 2QF	01277 525231	victoria.macmanus@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr M Moore	47 Laindon Road CM12 9LG	01277 627266	moira.moore@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	SW
Cllr M Roessler	9 Second Avenue CM12 9PR	07760 373070	martin.roessler@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr D Spencer	Fir Tree Lodge 16 Back Lane CM4 9DG	01277 829750	daphne.spencer@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr A Talboys	8 Wren Close CM11 2YU	01277 657576	alan.talboys@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	E
Cllr M Thomas	39 Chestwood Close CM12 0PB	01277 650453	mark.thomas@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr F Tomlin	2 Ruskin Dene CM12 0AN	01277 625692	frank.tomlin@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
Cllr J Tutton	11 Bluebell Wood CM12 0ES	01277 655443	james.tutton@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	W
CHAIRMAN:	Cllr Jim Devlin	Telephone:	01277 625732	
TOWN CLERK:	Deborah Tonkiss	Telephone:	01277 625732	
	Billericay Town Council	Fax:	01277 634784	
	The Loft, Crown Yard, High Street	E-Mail:	townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	
	Billericay, Essex CM12 9BX	Website:	www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk	

Contributions may be edited and acceptance and publication of all articles is subject to the Town Council's Terms and Conditions as shown on the website.