

# The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association



"Help us to help you"



April 2024

Come to our  
Open Day in the  
Reading Rooms on  
27th April

*Celebrating*



*160 Years*

**Billericay's future is in your hands –  
Join us at our Open Day this month! PAGE 3**

**The Reading Rooms celebrates  
160 years serving the community PAGE 4**

**Street Pastors need your  
donations**

**PAGE 5**

**Dementia awareness and  
new Cafe on our High Street**

**PAGE 5**

Your subscription for membership costs £3, which includes 10 editions of The Resident.

**Visit the BDRA Website at: [www.bdra.org](http://www.bdra.org)**



# Billericay Needs You!

## BDRA VACANT ROLES

### Chair Good Chairs are –

**Assertive, Decisive, Good Listeners, Adaptable, Diplomatic, Impartial Attentive and Concise.**

Do you think you have these skills? Do you care about the future of Billericay? Have you some time to spare? You sound just like the type of person we are looking for. BDRA now has a vacancy for a Chair.

If you are interested, please contact [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org)

### Road Reps

We are desperately in need of new volunteers to help us distribute and manage our magazine. Can you spare just a few hours a month to help us deliver our magazine to your street?

A Road Representative usually covers the same roads once a month.

*We were sad to hear of the recent death of **David Fordham**, a volunteer road rep who served the residents' of Meadow Rise for many years.*

**Balmoral Close, James Square / Hillside Road / Hillside Close / Brookside / Brookside Close and Meadow Rise**

**Contact Jan Weir [jimandjanweir@gmail.com](mailto:jimandjanweir@gmail.com)**

**Ricketts Drive / Brightside (part) and Brightside Close**

**Contact Gordon [gordon2908@me.com](mailto:gordon2908@me.com)**

**And Road Rep for Leaway and Longrise (GB09)**

**Contact Keith Bailey [keithbailey1951@outlook.com](mailto:keithbailey1951@outlook.com)**



### Area Membership Secretary for Great Burstead & South Green AND Queens Park

Membership Secretaries look after their particular area. The role will normally take a few hours a month and would suit anyone looking to give something back to the community. Use of email would be an advantage. Membership Secretaries look after their particular area. The role will normally take a few hours a month and would suit anyone looking to give something back to the community. The use of email would be an advantage. It will involve overseeing RRs in your area and dealing with subscription monies collected by Road Reps (cash, cheque, bank transfer).

## REMINDER • REMINDER • REMINDER



We would like to remind our members that your annual subs of £3 are now due. Your road rep will be knocking on your door to collect it, if they haven't done so already. If you have elected to pay by bank transfer please make your payment in this manner as soon as possible. If you don't already, and would prefer to pay by bank transfer please email [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org) for the bank details you will require.

We can now also offer an e-version of The Resident. If you opt to receive the e-version you will be required to pay your subs by bank transfer. Please email [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org), if you would prefer to receive The Resident in this format.

## Save the date – BDRA AGM

We would like to invite all our members to our AGM on  
**Wednesday 22nd May 2024**

at Emmanuel Church Laindon Road, Billericay at 19.30.

*The speaker will be Phil Norton who is the local coordinator of Street, School and Rail Pastors. The group is made up of volunteers from the local Christian Churches who seek to go out into the community to Help, Listen and Care. They have been operating in Billericay for over 10 years and now use the community hub in the High Street as a safe warm place for the community to come to for assistance at any time." This is a chance for you to listen to Phil about the work he and the team are doing in the Town.*

*After the AGM refreshments will be served.  
Will be good to see you all there.*

# BDRA NEWS

## BROKEN!

**T**here is no doubt that if you have driven on Billericay's roads or walked its pavements that you will have noted how poor a condition they are in.

The BDRA has on behalf of the residents of Billericay and with the assistance of our members been raising for some months specific cases where urgent repairs are required. These have all been reported to Essex County Council via our local Councillors. In addition, we have been making freedom of information requests to Essex County Council to get to the truth behind the state of our roads and pavements.

Our Councillors have reported back that all issues have been raised with the relevant parties and they also announced that in November last year some 700 road defects were repaired, however, our freedom of information requests showed that at the end of December 2023 there were 21,559 road defects still to be

repaired and 90,701 pavement defects to be repaired. So at that rate of progress, it would take ECC a further 31 months just to repair all the current defects.

ECC did agree some extra funding when they set their most recent budget in February 2024, however, they also know that the amount they set aside was many millions below the cost that their own officers had said was needed to repair all defects.

So please join our campaign to get ECC to change its policies and to get our roads and pavements into a safe condition. Billericay, we need your help, firstly please report any defects that you come across to us at [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org) so that we can report them to ECC.

While we will continue to campaign throughout 2024 to try and persuade ECC to repair our roads and pavements, we will be asking you all to support that campaign.

**Our Chair Keith Bailey resigned recently due to personal reasons. We would like to thank Keith for his hard work and contribution during the last two years and wish him well for the future.**



"Help us to help you"



# Letters to the Editor...

## Dear Editor,

In reply to Neil Stanley's letter in the March 2024 edition of the resident.

We have had Digital Telephones now for over two years.

Some key points about the new digital system:

- \* You are best to attach digital handsets to the system, not all existing older handsets work.
- \* You will need electrical points for all your phones, either digital or through the supplied adaptors.
- \* It all works through WIFI, so if the electricity goes out then everything stops working.
- \* Its therefore important to have a charged mobile if possible.

As for personal alarms through digital:

- \* There are issues relating to connectivity and loss of electricity for older personal alarms.
- \* There are though GPS personal alarms available through some providers.
- \* A GPS alarm works literally anywhere, as it does not connect through your house phone line.
- \* My wife uses AXA Health Taking Care, although there are other providers.
- \* Our yearly price for a one person system is £295.

Hope this helps

Tim Sheppard


## Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading February's magazine and would ask the following:

Regarding the Post Office closure article, Is BDRA aware that the One Stop shop currently provides a valuable Paypoint service which will also be lost when it closes?

Regarding the blue/white recycling bag rollout, I assume that now Councillor Moore has publicly acknowledged that the 'box kite' bags are not fit for purpose and will be the subject of a rethink, the Council will be looking for additional funding, either in the form of reducing services or increasing charges. Can I ask BDRA to use its influence to get the discriminatory green waste recycling payment policy changed. Although all rate paying households continue to fund the green waste collection service, the council will not collect green waste from households who wish to pay for this additional service by cash/cheque. Basildon Council currently accepts payment of Council Tax bills in cash via Paypoint, so why not green waste bills? After all, every £50 collected in cash is £50 less that has to be found from existing funds for new recycling bags! I suppose the old box kite bags could be sold as home compost kits!! On a serious note, as a society, we are not yet at the point when everyone is on-line and this policy is discriminatory. The council is, after all, funded by the residents for the residents – all of them!

From A Disappointed Gardner

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## LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

### Don't look back in anger

March 3rd saw the second anniversary of the withdrawal of the ruinous old Local Plan which would have seen the borough give up 1000 acres of Green Belt and brought about a 25% increase in population by 2034.

Since then, four of the Billericay Local Plan sites have gone to appeal, with two lost and two saved. A fifth was, regrettably, approved by the planning committee.

We remain very grateful for the Plan's withdrawal – but to reap the benefit we need to be rejecting applications to build on the Green Belt, and the new Local Plan should protect Green Belt rather than surrendering it to developers.

### New Local Plan brought forward

In response to Michael Gove's letter, the Council has brought forward its timetable for our new Local Plan. The first of two consultations will now be in the last quarter of this year, with submission to the government in the summer of 2025.

It's important that we get a new Local Plan, but not at any cost, and we are concerned that this ambitious timeline will make the Council hasty and disinclined to take on board comments made during the consultations. An environmentally focused Local Plan, that uses little or no Green Belt, will be the simplest and quickest to deliver.

Recent changes to planning regulations mean that our position at appeal improves as soon as a draft is published.

### Upcoming planning applications

We anticipate there will soon be a planning application for 250 houses in the Laindon Road-Frithwood Lane "green wedge"; this is one of Billericay's most important areas of Green Belt, reaching up to the High Street conservation area. It's astonishing that this area was included in the last Plan.

The image comes from the developer's website, but it's important to remember that the planning application could be markedly different.

To keep up to date visit the BAG website ([www.billericayactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.billericayactiongroup.org.uk)), and join the BAG Facebook Group "Save Billericay from Housing Developments".

## The Reading Rooms celebrates 160 years of serving the community



**B**uilt by and for the residents of Billericay – "to educate the working classes and to aid the growth and improvement of the common man".



Tucked away between the Kodak shop and Shelley's clothes shop is The Reading Rooms, 73 High Street, Billericay. A compact but welcoming community space.

In 1864 group of local people founded the Billericay Reading Rooms. They agreed that periodicals, newspapers and books be purchased and

placed in the rooms for perusal by all. With literacy so limited and no public libraries this was one of the few options for people to practise their reading. In the 1860's newspapers ranged from 1 old penny upwards per issue, however with a Labourer earning £36.04d, Policeman £53.94d, and a Teacher £93.76d per annum an old penny was a huge amount of money. To buy

or even to see a newspaper you had to be seriously rich or have rich friends who might let you look at their copy.

Initially the Reading Rooms were a gentleman only venue. In the early 1900's it allowed the entry of ladies but only on Wednesdays from 7.30am to 4.30pm, but this was stopped in 1906 – the reason was not given in the minutes. However, in the minutes there are recorded complaints about rowdiness but whether these two things were connected we will never know.

In the 1930s, after the public library came to Billericay, the use of the rooms switched to recreation, with a billiard table, darts and similar pastimes being available.

Vice-chair of The Reading Rooms, Heather Stuart recalls, 'My family would have been the type of family The Reading Rooms sort to help. My mother was one of ten children, with her father a thatcher by trade. They lived in a two up, two down on the high street. I remember visiting The Reading Rooms as a child, but my mother always called it The Recreation Rooms.'

The people who hire the Reading Rooms today are diverse: history groups, many

and varied charities, parties and private events and local societies.



The more unusual are the art groups with live models, the music groups practising for their exam on brass instruments.

The Reading Rooms is today a vibrant and well used space with regular events during the week, along with many ad hoc events. As the Reading Rooms were built by the people of Billericay, for the people of Billericay very competitive rates are available for residents of the town. Next time you are planning an event why not use The Reading Rooms. The Letting Officer can be contacted via email: [bookings@thereadingrooms.org](mailto:bookings@thereadingrooms.org) or by telephone 07917 076490 (answerphone).

## Coach Trip to Shepherd & Neame Brewery Faversham

**O**ur popular coach trips offer a great opportunity to get out and about and meet new residents.

Our residents visited the **Shepherd & Neame Brewery in Faversham** on the 28th February where they enjoyed a very informative guided tour of the Brewery, followed by some beer tastings and very tasty two course lunch with a drink of our choice.

Find out and book your 2024 trips – every issue these can be found on the back cover of our magazine.



# Billericay Bowling Club

[www.billericaybowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.billericaybowlingclub.co.uk)



**Billericay Bowling Club is based in Lake Meadows Park and will be holding a *Free Open Day* on Sunday 5th May 2024 from 10.00am to 3.00pm**

## **Q. CAN I HAVE A GO TO SEE IF I LIKE IT?**

**A.** Yes, just contact Tracy on 07907 193080 in advance to book a free one-hour session. This is a *FUN DAY* and all ages and abilities are welcome.

## **Q. DO I NEED ANY SPECIAL EQUIPMENT?**

**A.** Only flat soled shoes. We will supply the bowls.

## **Q. IS COACHING AVAILABLE?**

**A.** If you enjoy the open day, we will be arranging several coaching sessions during the next 2 to 3 weeks.

## **Q. HOW OFTEN CAN I BOWL?**

**A.** Our summer season outdoors starts on 1st May and ends on 30th September. Practice bowling is available every day and club games take place on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings.

## **Q. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I JOIN?**

**A.** Each new member is allocated a 'buddy' to guide them during the early days and coaching by qualified coaches is available on a one-to-one basis.



**Billericay & Basildon Street Pastors are a community-based initiative aimed at providing support and assistance to individuals in need within our local area.**

The volunteer-driven organization operates on the principles of compassion, care, and community engagement. A dedicated team of volunteers patrols the streets during evening hours, offering a listening ear, practical assistance, and a reassuring presence to those who may find themselves in challenging situations. We work closely with local authorities and emergency services to contribute to the overall safety and well-being of our community.

The success of Street Pastors relies heavily on the generosity of local supporters. Contributions can make a significant impact on their ability to continue serving the community effectively.

In recognition of your support, they are happy to acknowledge your business in their promotional materials.

This is an excellent opportunity for businesses to be associated with a cause that actively contributes to the well-being and safety of our local community.

For more information contact Phil Norton **Billericay@streetpastors.org.uk** or 07568 536722.



**Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW)**

## **Development must know its limits and keep**

## **within them and respect the environment**

**W**e have just been informed that the BBC has applied a series of Woodland TPOs on the ancient woodland that are in the gardens of 108 / 118 / 120 / 122 / 126 / 128 & 130 Norsey Road that run down to NW's Main Ride. It represents a considerable area of Ancient Woodland. The BTW requested such protection post the shocking felling of ancient woodland back in early 2023. We wanted to safeguard similar wanton and reckless damage to our town's tree stock, and to Norsey Wood itself, as had occurred in the garden of a neighboring property back in early 2023. Also, it was a damaging incident to the Norsey Wood Society who have been the guardians of the wood since the early 1970's and still nurture and defend it today as a public amenity and as a Nature Reserve.

Trees and wildlife don't recognize boundaries so leave our ancient woodland alone is the message. It transpired that the felling at a nearby property was not an illegal act but there had been no consultation or discussion at the ethical / wildlife / environment level.

We have thanked the several who have made representations to achieve this protection on our behalf and not least BBC Enforcement whose hands were legally tied at the very beginning but have pressed ahead with

ensuring that future threats to existing ancient NW woodland have been averted. To apply so many Woodland TPOs on seven properties is no mean feat and would have involved much Tree Officers time, expense and legal work behind the scenes – But it has been successfully achieved.

However, we failed to convince the Forestry Commission that there had been a breach of their rules but one of our "Friends of the BTW" pursued the idea relentlessly right to the very end

which we are very grateful for. Like all journeys, they can be valuable learning curves.

We intend to get an article in the BDRA Newsletter about this sorry saga and will express in no uncertain terms how this type of thoughtless and reckless behaviour is not to be tolerated in our town. Development must know its limits and keep within them and respect the environment.

John – BTW  
A subgroup of the BTC

## **DEMENTIA CAFE OPENING**

**Watch Out for Billericay High Street going Blue – Again!**

You may remember that last year in May all the shops in the High Street dressed their windows in blue to commemorate Dementia Awareness Week. And were judged by the Town Council as to who was the best. Well hopefully that will happen again this year in the second week in May.

In addition, last year we held a Dementia Open morning at the Billericay Medical Centre. This year by kind permission of the Human Kind café it will be held there. Right on the High Street, on 14 May from 10am to 1.00 pm.

And you are all invited to attend. Come and check the café out; have a free cup of tea/coffee and free refreshments with us, and have the chance to talk to a lot of organisations that can give free help and advice about dementia. And let's face it, there are few of us now who don't have some member of our family or a friend who doesn't have dementia.

**Looking forward to seeing you all. Just turn up!**

Marion Wilson





**M**any of you will have seen the display of the finalists' photographs of our 2023 Photography Competition, which have been in Billericay Library during March. Once again the standard was high and we were particularly pleased with the number of Juniors who entered this time, after they took part in our photography workshops last summer.

Abigail Clapton's beautiful winning photo 'Nectar' reminds us that warmer days are ahead as we look forward to all the wildlife that we can enjoy at the park in the coming Spring and Summer. And what a wealth of wildlife we have!

Hugh Sommerville-Cutting's photo of 'A Splash in the Park' shows a cormorant, one of the many birds to be found in the park. Over 66 varieties of birds have been noted in recent surveys, including thirty-odd varieties of waterbirds on the lake, including a kingfisher, heron and Egyptian geese. Nuthatches, woodpeckers, goldcrests and siskin can be found elsewhere.

There are five varieties of bats, and many pollinating insects



"Nectar" by Abigail Clapton

including different types of bees, moths and butterflies. Of the many wildflowers that are known to grow in the park, perhaps the more unusual are Cowslips, Lady's Smock and Blue-eyed Mary, just a few examples of the

138 species of wildflowers found here. The trees also add to the variety of wildlife, with over 50 species, many of which are labelled on our Tree Walk; some planted over a hundred years ago, others more recently by the Friends and Parks.

Not only is the park of great benefit to all of us residents, but

viable, our concern for the future of our parks is very real and we need to ensure that they remain as an essential asset to be kept and treasured for future generations.

Our next event is an Early Morning Bird walk on Monday May 6th – details on our website [www.lakemeadows.org.uk](http://www.lakemeadows.org.uk)

the wildlife too depends on this secluded habitat. We need to do everything we can to help it grow and develop by caring for our park. With Councils throughout the country under pressure to balance budgets and remain

And finally a reminder that this year's photo competition is now open and we look forward to receiving entrants up until October 31st. The rules and form are also now available on our website.



## Austin Jones Group Essex Carpet Cleaning

**M**y name is Steve & I started Austin Jones Group Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning back in 1989. I have always taken pride in my work & believe this is why after 35 years in the business I am still lucky enough to have so many great & loyal customers.

I moved to Billericay over 30 years ago with my wife Sharon where we have brought up two wonderful kids who went to Quilters then Billericay School. I love living in Billericay with its friendly people & great High Street, not forgetting "the mighty blues" Billericay Football Club.

Having advertised in the Resident Magazine for many years I can say that it is successful in earning me regular new local customers with every edition and am grateful for their support.



## Billericay District Residents' Association Incorporating Billericay Action Group



If  
**YOU CARE**  
about the  
**FUTURE of**  
**BILLERICAY**

Come along and find out more about the  
**'Billericay District Residents' Association'**  
at our **OPEN DAY** on **Saturday 27th April**  
between 10am - 4pm, at  
**'The Reading Rooms'**  
73 High Street, Billericay CM12 9AS.  
Refreshments available.

[www.bdra.org](http://www.bdra.org)  
[www.billericayactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.billericayactiongroup.org.uk)

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## The legal implications of a Grandparent's £50 legacy

**A judge has ruled that a grandad was entitled to give his grandchildren just £50 each out of his £500k estate.**

Frederick Ward died aged 91, splitting his estate equally between his two surviving children, Terry and Susan. Frederick had another son, Fred, who sadly predeceased him, leaving five children of his own.

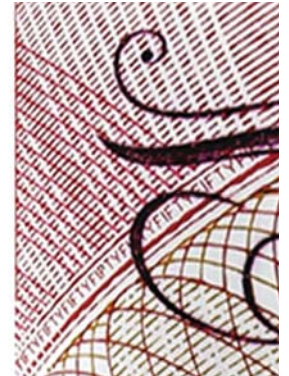
Frederick left £50 legacies to each of Fred's children. They thought they should have been entitled to a 1/3rd split of Frederick's estate between them, so they took the family to court over their missed inheritance.

However, the judge did not find in their favour and deemed that it was entirely rational for the disappointed grandchildren to receive such a small sum

because of their limited involvement with their grandfather over the years.

Maybe if they had visited their grandad and had a better relationship with him, he would have wanted to leave them a greater share of his estate. They could have received the circa £33k that they thought they each were entitled to instead of the gesture of £50.

In this case and many others like it, a lot of money is spent on bringing and defending the claim, and many family dynamics are not recoverable, as there is a lot of anguish and turmoil when dealing with claims.



You may want to leave someone out of your will completely or leave unequal amounts to your beneficiaries; whatever the situation, please contact one of our will specialists so that we can provide you with bespoke advice.

At Birkett Long, we appreciate that discussing the reasons why

you are not including someone in your will can be difficult. We understand that every situation is different and can help provide practical steps regarding the correct documents to put in place if this is the case.

If you would like to put a will in place, then please contact me

**Emma Clarke**  
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# Defibrillator Sessions back in 2024!



*There will be two Free Defibrillator training sessions, kindly funded by the Trustees of The Reading Rooms, and are planned for 2024.*

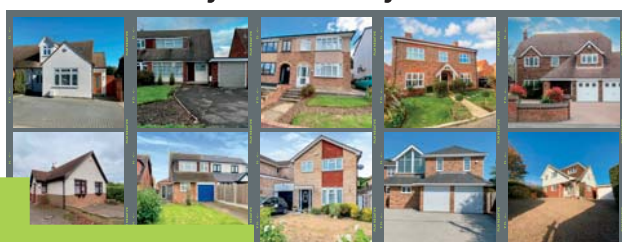
*Places are limited so if you would like to book for either of these, which are held in the Reading Rooms, they would love to hear from you.*

*Please contact **chairman@thereadingrooms.org***



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St. Luke's Hospice is an innovator in the delivery of palliative and end of life care. Your lasting legacy will help us to continue to provide relevant and much needed services for local people with life limiting illnesses, and their families.

Contact our Legacies team for a free information pack today:

**Call:** 01268 524973

**Email:** [legacies@stlukeshospice.co.uk](mailto:legacies@stlukeshospice.co.uk)

**Visit:** [www.stlukeshospice.com/legacies](http://www.stlukeshospice.com/legacies)

St Luke's Hospice (Basildon & District) Ltd. | A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 1812104 | Registered office: St. Luke's Hospice, Fobbing Farm, Nethermayne, Basildon SS16 5NJ | Registered Charity Number 289466

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- Tennis elbow
- Knee pain
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Dizziness (cervicogenic)
- Migraine and headaches





# Dates for your Diary!



## BDRA and Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings** Planning **9th and 23rd April**; Health, Wellbeing and Environment **2nd April**; Finance and General Purpose **11th April**; Town Council **16th April**
- **BDRA Meetings Thursday 1st April**. 7.30pm at The Reading Rooms. All members welcome. Contact us on [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org)



## Clubs and Societies

- **Basildon and Billericay French Circle** meet at The Fold, Laindon Rd, **Friday 19th April** at 8pm 'A Lac Aquitaine A lac heure anglaise – a talk in French by Brigitte Thibaut. **Friday 3rd May** Echape en Normandie a talk in French by Brigitte Whiteing. All welcome visitors £5 [www.basildonandbillericayfrenchcircle.com](http://www.basildonandbillericayfrenchcircle.com) or contact 07986 293419
- **Billericay Action Alliance 14th May** Open Morning from 10am to 1pm at the new Human Kind café in High Street. Free entry and refreshments and a chance to talk to organisations who can give help and advice on Dementia. Contact Marion 01277 626321
- **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society** Meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, **Monday April 8th** AGM at 7.0pm, followed by Bright Sparks in the History of Electricity – Les Smith Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments 50p per person. Contact [alantaylor8@btopenworld.com](mailto:alantaylor8@btopenworld.com)
- **Billericay Art Club** at The Fold. **Thursdays** 9.30-12.30 New members wanted to join small group of friendly, encouraging amateur painters at The Fold Refreshments and free parking available. Call Eileen on 01277 659347 for more information
- **Billericay Flower Arranging Group** meet on the **first Wednesday of each month** at 7.30pm for 8pm start in the W.I. Hall, St. Edith's Lane, Billericay. Visitors welcome at £7 each. Contact Linda Gilbey on 01277 656217 or email [ljgilbey@oal.com](mailto:ljgilbey@oal.com)
- **Billericay Horticultural Society** meet at the Chantry Centre from 8pm-10pm, visitors welcome £3.00. Refreshments available. **15th April** 70 Years in Horticulture – Jim Buttress [43trouble@gmail.com](mailto:43trouble@gmail.com)
- **Billericay Lions Club** meet in The Duchess Suite at The Duke's Head PH on the **second and fourth Mondays every month** 8-10pm. If you would like to make new friends, whilst helping those less

fortunate than yourself, please get in touch 0345 833 9849. For more information [www.billericaylions.com](http://www.billericaylions.com)

- **Billericay Men's Shed** Generally fortnightly – **Mondays** – Coffee n chat, **Tuesdays** – Woodworking, **Wednesdays** – Volunteer supported sessions for those with dementia and their carers. Lake Meadows to the front of the bowls building, just beyond the bowling green. Contact [billericaymensshed@gmail.com](mailto:billericaymensshed@gmail.com) or phone 07544 752686
- **Billericay Branch of The Mother's Union** meet on **4th Wednesday each month** at 1pm for 1.30pm start in the Mayflower/Pilgrim Rooms of The Emmanuel Archer Hall 66-68 Laindon Road, Billericay CM12 9LD. We have a variety of Speakers and activities, Contact Pauline 07939102945
- **Billericay and District Parkinsons Support Group** We have **every Monday and Tuesday** at 11.30am at Studio360 our exercise classes; every other Tuesday Let's Sing Group meet at 2pm in Christchurch, Wickford, our Walk and Talk Group meet **every Thursday** at 11am at main entrance of Lake Meadows to walk a loop or two and tea at the end; Monthly meeting on **3rd Saturday** of each month at Emmanuel Hall at 2.30pm.
- **Billericay WEA** at The Reading Rooms, Billericay High Street CM12 9AS. Wednesday evening course – 4 sessions Smuggling in Essex The Romance and the Reality (18th Century) with Claire Parker. Starts **Wednesday May 1st** 7.30 – 9.30pm Fee: £33.60 Ref: Q00013750. Enrol [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or 0300 303 3464. Local contact: [Billericay.branch@wea.ac](mailto:Billericay.branch@wea.ac)
- **Carers Peer Support Group** Meet at 2pm in Education Room of Billericay Medical Centre on **last Monday of the month**. To book: Contact Jenny. [Goodson@carersfirst.org.uk](mailto:Goodson@carersfirst.org.uk)
- **Gone Too Soon** Bereavement support group for Parents who have lost a Son or Daughter in any circumstances and if recent or a while ago. Meet at The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way **Monday 8th April** at 7pm - Parents are given a warm and friendly welcome in a safe environment. Contact Lyn on 07387805406 or e-mail [lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk) [www.gone-too-soon.online](http://www.gone-too-soon.online)
- **Hearing Help Essex** Hearing Aid Support Session. **Monthly** maintenance sessions for NHS hearing aid users at The Chantry Centre. To book an appointment call 01245 496347, text 07950 406173 or book online at [www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk](http://www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk)
- **Mayflower Morris Men** will perform Billericay's Mummers Play on **20th April** at the corner of High Street/St. Edith's Lane at 10.30 and 11.15am. Totally free. Suitable for all ages. Remember to boo the dragon! For more information: 01277 654228 or [www.mayflowermorris.com](http://www.mayflowermorris.com)
- **Mill Meadows Society Thursday 18th April** at 7.45pm in The Chantry Centre CM11 2AP – AGM followed by talk on Conservation grazing with

cattle, sheep, goats and water buffalo by Roger Beecroft. Non-members welcome. Refreshments available. Website: [millmeadows.org.uk](http://millmeadows.org.uk). Email [admin@millmeadows.org.uk](mailto:admin@millmeadows.org.uk) Peter Croot (secretary) 07989 373957

## The WI

- **Billericay WI** meet at the WI Hall, St. Edith's Lane at 2pm on the **first and third Wednesday of each month**. Contact 01277 624255.
- **Buttsbury (Billericay) WI** meet on the **2nd Tuesday of the month** at Canon Roche Hall 8pm-10pm. New members welcome. For more details contact Jan Nash on 01277 630147
- **Little Burstead WI** meet on the **second Thursday of the month** from 2pm-4pm at Little Burstead Village Hall. Contact 01268 491396
- **South Green WI** meet on the **third Thursday of the month** at South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road. CM11 2PR. Contact 01277 652739
- **APPLE Bridge** Friendly EBU affiliated Club meets at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue on **Wednesdays** for duplicate sessions at 9.30. Sessions cost £3. Bring own refreshments. Contact 07552 753075
- **Venturers' Bridge Club** meet on **Thursdays** 1.15pm at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue for social bridge in a friendly environment. £4.00 per session. Contact [graham@forsythe.co.uk](mailto:graham@forsythe.co.uk)



## Fitness and Sport

- **Billericay parkrun** Every **Saturday** 8.45am at Lake Meadows, parkrun provides a free, timed 5k run, jog or walk for all standards from 4 years+ Visit [www.parkrun.org.uk/billericay](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/billericay) or visit our Facebook page.
- **Lake Meadows junior parkrun** Every **Sunday** at 8.45am at Lake Meadows, parkrun provides a free, timed 2k run, jog or walk for all standards from 4-14 years. Visit [www.parkrun.org.uk/lake-meadows-juniors/](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/lake-meadows-juniors/) or visit our Facebook page: Lake Meadows junior parkrun
- **Billericay Town Walking Football** We train at Billericay Town FC. Men 50+ on **Mondays** 8pm-9.30pm and **Thursdays** 10am-12pm (£6 per session) **Mondays** 7pm-8pm for Ladies 40+ (£5 per session). E-mail Bill at [btfcwf@gmail.com](mailto:btfcwf@gmail.com)
- **Outwood Common Tenants and Residents** – Seated Yoga **Friday** 11.15-11.45am at St John's Church. £1 a session. Open to everyone of all ages and abilities

**To advertise your event here, please email [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org)**

**Deadline for the next issue is 10th April for events taking place between 10th May and 9th June**

# Billericay District Residents' Association **COACH TRIPS**



**ON THE DAY OF THE TRIP ONLY  
THE EMERGENCY CONTACT  
NUMBER IS 07518 122647**

Please note that all payments should be made as soon as possible and sent to the person named on the trip advertisement. Cheques should be made payable to BDRA and the trip title shown on the back of the cheque.  
Departure points for all trips:

QPR – Queens Park Roundabout (for holiday trip only), GG – Gooseberry Green, bus stop at roundabout, OA – Orchard Avenue, approaching Stock Road, LR – Laindon Road, bus stop between Sun Corner and the fire station, SG – South Green, bus stop to Wickford, opposite the retirement apartments

*Please note – When a trip is confirmed the fare must be paid as soon as possible.*

*If you are a solo traveller on a trip, we ask you to provide a contact number when booking, in case of an emergency on the trip.*

## **SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL TRUST BLICKLING HOUSE & ESTATE NORFOLK**

### **Seats Still Available, Please Pay Now**

You'll never forget your first sight of Blickling, when the breath-taking Jacobean mansion comes into view, flanked by ancient yew hedging and encircled by its historic park. Blickling's owners have used the estate as a quiet refuge for centuries, while playing their part on the political stage.

Philip Kerr, 11th Marquis of Lothian, left the estate to the National Trust in 1940, and he is vital to its story. He was instrumental in drafting the National Trust Act in Parliament in 1937, which enabled the first large-scale transfer of country houses to the National Trust in lieu of death duties. The present house was built from 1616-25 by Robert Lyminge (the architect of Hatfield) for Sir Henry Hobart, 1st Baronet, Lord Chief Justice to James 1. Four centuries of good husbandry have made Blickling's gardens one of the greatest in England. Take a stroll through the newly restored walled garden and there are also 950 acres of woodland and parkland. Subject to volunteer availability there is The RAF Oulton Museum to visit.

**Cost:** Coach & House for Non National Trust Members: £34.50

**Cost:** Coach for Members of The National Trust: £20.00

**Depart:** GG 8.00am. OA 8.05am. LR 8.15am. SG 8.20am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

**Please telephone to book**

**Yvonne Cave, 11 The Vale, Stock, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9PW. Telephone 01277 840560**

## **MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 – ABINGDON AND MILLETS GARDEN CENTRE**

We spend the morning in the historic market town of Abingdon on Thames which claims to be the oldest town in England. There will be time to look at the market and shops or have a walk along the Thames. There are plenty of eating places. After lunch we take a short drive to Millets Garden Centre. This farm shops sells meat, fruit, vegetables and has a bakery selling bread, cakes and biscuits. All the produce is either grown on the farm or locally sourced. It also has clothes, interior decor, garden furniture, toiletries, toys, home wear and a gift shop. It also has a large selection of plants. There are two restaurants. Outside they have a maize maze, a ferris wheel and a carousel (£3 per ride) There is also an animal enclosure with goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits and rheas or you can take a stroll along their nature trail.

**Cost:** £21.00

**Depart:** GG 8 00am. OA 8.05am. LR 8.15am. SG.8.25am. Back in Billericay approximately 7.00pm.

**Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Monday 18th March**

**Kathleen Fox, 72 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0ND. Telephone: 01277 622342**

**If concession prices are quoted (i.e. seniors, children) these should be requested at the time of booking or the full price will apply.  
In the event that you need to cancel all efforts will be made to resell your tickets, however if we are unable to resell your tickets  
you are liable for payment.**

**PRIVACY NOTICE** We understand that you consented to BDRA holding personal details about you when you subscribed as a member of the Billericay District residents' Association and a recipient of the Resident magazine. The information which we hold is your name and address, and we may hold additional information which you have provided such as your email address and/or telephone number. We hold this data for the purpose of delivering the Resident Magazine to you and to collect and administer your subscription payments. We will hold your personal information only for as long as is necessary for these purposes. Personal data is held securely and will not be shared with any third parties. You have the right to request to see what information we hold about you. You have the right to instruct us to delete your personal information from our records at any time. This would result in the termination of your membership of the BDRA.