The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association

"Help us to help you"

Billericay Action Group

December 2025

Happy Christmas

and a Happy Healthy 2026 to all our members



Photo: Mill Hill by Linda Skaret of Photofold Camera Club

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Your subscription for membership costs £5, which includes 10 editions of The Resident or £3pa if a member takes the e-version.

Visit the BDRA Website at: 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***

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.

- **Meadow Rise & Felstead Road** ***(26 members)***

Contact Jan Wier jimandjanweir@gmail.com

Area Membership secretary for Great Burstead & South Green

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. Interested?

Contact resident@bdra.org

Thank you to…

Hazel Dempsey who has been a road rep for many years, serving our members in Perry Street and Graham Close.

Graham Moat, who has joined the volunteers of the BDRA and filled the vacant role of Distributor and Road rep, vacated by Bill West. Well done, Graham.

Good Luck to Paul and Shirley Farrow, who have move to Leicestershire. Paul was the Area Membership Secretary for Queens Park for 10 years and Shirley was a road rep for 14 years. We wish them happiness in their new home.

BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"

Billericay Action Group

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE – It's never too late to get involved!

By the time you read this in early December another public consultation on the new Basildon Local Plan will have started on the 28 November and will be open until 16 January. It's therefore not too late to get involved and something to do over the holiday period!

The consultation can be accessed here:

https://basildonlocalplan25.commonplace.is/en-GB/

For more information, please visit the website below or join the Facebook Group 'Save Billericay From Housing Developments'. **www.billericayactiongroup.org.uk.**

This will be your last chance to comment on the proposed content of the Local Plan and to try to influence the outcome. After this consultation, a final version of the Local Plan will be published, followed by a very technical consultation, before the council submits it to the Government for examination.

If you want to protect the character of Billericay, and our quality of life, this is your opportunity. Basildon Council is proposing to meet the Government's housing target and deliver over 28,000 new houses. That will change the face of the borough and Billericay forever. Its equivalent to building another Billericay AND Wickford combined on our green fields.

But worse still is that Basildon Council proposes to make wholesale changes to the Green Belt by allocating far more land than that excessive target dictates. The Green Belt will be all but dead if this plan goes ahead. Once it has gone it can't come back.

The impact on our doctors, dentists, hospitals, schools and roads will be profound. We have seen nothing to give us the confidence that these key services be improved to meet what would be a 30%, or more, population increase in just 20 years. That scale and speed of growth is unprecedented and unsustainable.

We therefore urge you all to get involved and submit your comments now. Please remember, this is your last chance.

Thank you.



REMINDER...

We can now 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. If you take the e-version your subs will be £3pa, as opposed to £5pa for the hard copy.

If you receive a hard copy of The Resident and would prefer to pay your subs by bank transfer, please email* resident@bdra.org *and request the bank details you will require.

The George Hurd Activity Centre

Over 50's Activity Centre based in Basildon
Open Monday to Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm

We offer a range of over 25 classes, from Art to Bowls, Keep-fit to Sit-Down Yoga, Card Making to Ballroom.
We also have a warm and welcoming lounge and Tea Bar area, so you can enjoy activity as well as socialising.

- *Classes £2.50 - £3.50*
- *First class is free of charge*
- *Monthly trips are on offer and we have regular social gatherings here at the centre*
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Vice Chair: Stephen Chapman. Magazine Coordinator: Viv Burling. Email: resident@bdra.org
BDRA website at: www.bdra.org

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Stephen Chapman, Vice Chair, laying a wreath at Billericay War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The BDRA also donated £75 to the British Legion on behalf of our members.

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

Help us to help you.

With reference to your above-named article in the November issue of The Resident, I do appreciate reading BDRA News with updates on Local Government Reorganisation and excessive Housing Development.

I feel it would be very useful to have articles of local interest included from our MP Richard Holden, Billericay Town Council and Basildon Borough Council to keep us even more informed.

Many thanks,

Anne Deall

Is there any particular type of article that you would like to see in The Resident; Write and let us know.

Thank you to all our volunteers

International Volunteers Day is an annual event that honours the invaluable work of volunteers and volunteer organisations. It aims to inspire more people to engage in volunteer activities and promote the idea that volunteering contributes to building a better and more inclusive world. International Volunteers Day is observed globally on December 5th each year. This date offers a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable achievements of volunteers and to reflect on the impact of volunteerism on society.

International Volunteer Day

This is a chance for the BDRA Committee to thank all our volunteers, and all those that have gone before. From those who direct the association to those who distribute and deliver The Resident, and all those in between. And of course, the ladies who organise our successful coach trips and our partners from the Billericay Action Group, who run the successful 'Save Billericay From Housing Development' fb page and contribute to The Resident. We make a great team of volunteers, continually working for the people of Billericay. The BDRA could not have existed for nearly 100 years without you all.

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New Banking Hub

A new Banking Hub is confirmed to open in Billericay, Essex, and will be located in the former Lloyds Bank building on the High Street. Lease negotiations are underway and refurbishment work is expected to begin soon.

No specific date is available yet, but it is expected to be open in early 2026. The hub will be operated by the Post Office on behalf of Cash Access UK and will offer services to customers of all major banks.

A counter service will be available Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm for universal cash and banking services, including cash/cheque deposits, withdrawals, bill payments, and balance checks.

Access to change-giving services for registered local businesses.

Private space for face-to-face appointments with a community banker from a specific bank on a rotating daily schedule (e.g., a different bank represented each day of the week).

This new facility aims to restore banking services to the High Street following a series of bank branch closures in the town. With this announcement Santander has announced it will close their High Street branch on the 20th December. This is different to the reassurance given to Richard Holden that they would not close their branch until the banking hub has opened. Let's hope we don't have to wait too long for the hub to be fully operational.



Billericay Unite in Kindness launch

On the 11th November Unite in Kindness was launched at Billericay Library. Attending the launch was the High Sheriff of Essex and also Richard Holden MP.

The initiative came from Mike Wade, Headteacher of Quilters Primary School who raised an idea at a recent meeting of the Billericay Dementia Friendly Community Committee, to create a symbol that people can wear to highlight that they are happy to chat to others. Everyone agreed that they loved this idea and have created a cheerful, eye-catching badge to symbolise the kindness, empathy and connections that make Billericay a special place. The badge includes the unique Billericay Mayflower ship, daisies for friendship and to link people, with forget-me-nots to signify commitment to inclusion for people living with dementia.

When you see someone wearing the badge, you can be sure of a warm smile, a wave, and a safe person to ask for help. People who wear the badge are signalling their support for the simple human connections to make life brighter. Some wearers will be younger other older; the group wants to foster respect and empathy across the generations.

Wearing the badge show pride in the Billericay community and a desire to make it even better. If you would like to become involved, as a sponsor or if you would like to order badges for your group or organisation, please contact Sarah Hawkes, Kinder Essex Coach





Publication of an advertisement in this newsletter does not indicate editorial endorsement

Baby Basics

Baby Basics UK is one of the largest networks of baby banks in the country. They have a network of centres across the UK to support families with all the practical essentials they need for life with children from pre-birth to 5 years. We are lucky to have a centre here in the heart of Billericay, at 8-10 High Street, where they share premises with the Community Pastors. Baby Basics Billericay operates out of Revival Church Billericay.

What is Baby Basics? Their aim is to provide some of the basic needs for vulnerable women with a new born. They don't have direct contact with the clients, all clients are referred by professionals dealing with expecting or new mums, such as mid wives, Health Centres and Women's refuges. These groups work directly with the mums and are easily able to identify those most in need. All requests for help are answered with the supply of a moses basket, which is filled with bedding, clothes, nappies and everything a baby up to 3 months old will need. Formula, bottles and sterilising kits are also provided where it is known that the mother does not want to breast feed. Also provided is a small bag of clothing for any siblings in the family, aged 2-5 years, and last but certainly not least a 'change bag' is supplied, which is full of all the essentials mum needs after giving birth.

Opening a centre in Billericay was the idea of Jane in 2020, who felt that a baby support unit in the area was required. Even though she had no experience in this area, she quickly gathered around her 12 volunteers and between them they fitted out the premises in the High Street, set about applying for grants, getting donations, from individuals, local business and charities such as the Lions and Rotary, and got the centre up and running. Through their dedication and hard work, they have gone from strength to strength. In 2021, they helped just 35 new mums, so far this year, they have helped 160.

Whilst talking to Jane I met Tracy who works at The Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services, and is one of the official groups that is frequently looking to Jane to help new mums. She advised that it is wonderful to visit new mums and see their faces light up when they receive such a beautiful gift from Baby Basics, at such a vulnerable time.

What can you do to help? There is always a need for new or good quality 2nd hand freshly washed baby clothes, toiletries and other miscellaneous baby items. If anything is not suitable for the centre's needs it is always passed on to other charities or groups. Are you a knitter? Some of the knitted items that were waiting to be given out were beautiful. With the winter approaching maybe you could spend the cold dark evenings knitting a few baby items. No bonnets please as they have a large stock of those.



Or if you felt unable to help with knitting or donating other items, monetary donations are always welcome as these will help pay for items that are not donated, such as the formula, the moses baskets, the change bag and items within. Baby Basics, with the help of the community aims to make sure that every new born baby gets the best start in life. It is open every Friday to receive donations.

You can contact them on
Phone: **07537170350**
or email: **billericaybabybasics@gmail.com**
or website **www.baby-basics.org.uk/centre/billericay**
where you can find details of new and second-hand donations that will be gratefully received.

Local Government Changes

In the October and November editions we highlighted the proposed changes to Local Government, to merge the 15 councils under Essex County Council along with, Southend on Sea and Thurrock Council, which are already Unitary Councils, into a number of all purpose unitary authorities.

There are four proposals put forward, and the Government is now seeking your views on these proposals.

By the time you receive this magazine the consultation will be open. It lasts for 7 weeks from 19 November 2025 to 11 January 2026.

Let your views be known regarding this big change to Local Government by following the link below and completing the consultation:-

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-essex-southend-on-sea-and-thurrock/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-essex-southend-on-sea-and-thurrock

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www.agewelleast.org.uk Registered Charity Number 1142414

Friends of Lake Meadows BILLERICAY

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An early Christmas present for Billericay families arrived at the park recently, when the Spirit of the Child in the Park' was informally unveiled by a small group including FoLM members and gardeners, members of the Parks & Countryside team and local Basildon councillors.

If you have not seen it yet, then do try and visit the new sculpture. It is, of course, very different to the bronze statue of 'The Child' that we all loved. This one is made of re-constituted stone, which hopefully will be of no interest to anyone thinking of stealing it. It is evidently a very tough material and will weather gradually as natural stone does.

We hope that everyone, particularly all the local children, will come to love it and enjoy spotting the many creatures that are depicted including the mole, spider, stag beetle, dragonfly, slow worm, fish, shrew, owl and seagull, as well as the snail in the child's hands.

John Doubleday is a renowned sculptor, who lives near Maldon. This is his third commission for Billericay. Not only did he create the original sculpture of the Child in the Park, he also created the Mayflower plaque at the junction of

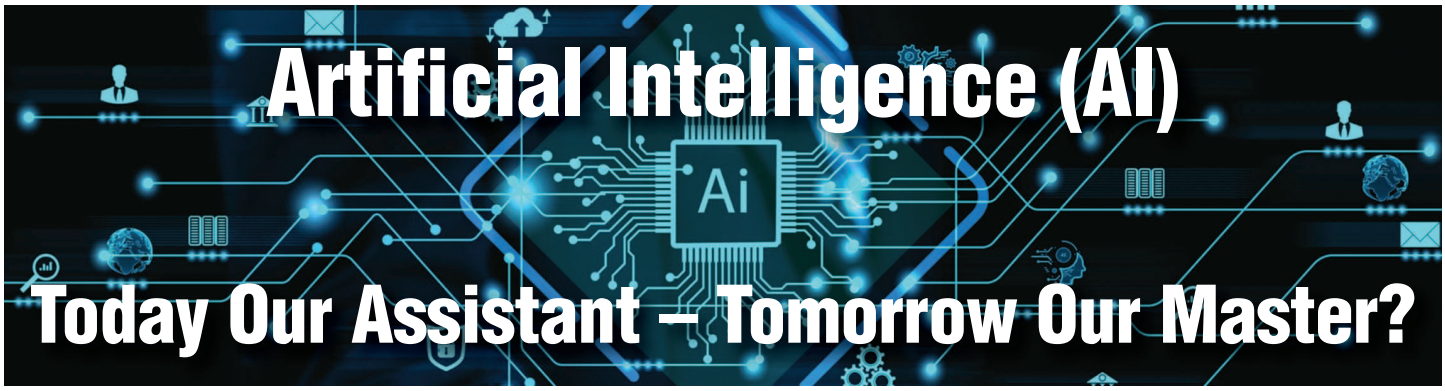


Western Road and the High Street. His enthusiasm and sensitive creative flair, links the context of the settings to his craft, which is why they become so meaningful to those who appreciate all he puts into his works. We especially thank John for giving us such inspired sculptures to enjoy. A gift from the children of the past and present for the children of the future.

Our thanks to Basildon Council's Billericay Area Committee for their award towards the sculpture and to the Billericay Mayflower Rotary Club for their generosity in helping to cover the final costs of the installation.

Carols in the Park is now an annual feature at Lake Meadows, so we invite everyone to join us on Saturday December 13th from 3.30pm near the Bowls' Pavilion. There will be mince pies and mulled ale, as well as drinks and treats for children. Music is being provided by our friends from Forging Men, all we need are some enthusiastic singers! Do bring a torch and keep an eye on our FB page and website if the weather is doubtful.

On that note may we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and our best wishes for a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year



AI is already with us and is embedded in computer search engines, Smartphones, social media websites, fraud detection, healthcare diagnostics and many other everyday uses: but how else will it affect our lives?

AI works by training computer systems to learn from large amounts of data, identifying patterns and using algorithms (browsing history) to make predictions or perform tasks. These systems are built on three core components: data, algorithms, and models. Through a process of learning and adaptation, AI systems become more accurate and capable over time which is not dissimilar as to how us humans learn from experience. The pace of technology is now rapid - A person born around 1885 say and living to the mid-1970's would have started life travelling by horse and cart and 85 years later could have heard Neil Armstrong's immortal broadcast from the Moon and also have travelled by Concorde to different continents. So what will the next one hundred year "wave" of technological inventions achieve and how will it affect us and shape society?

It is thought that AI's superintelligence will lend itself to being tasked in solving the problem of duplicating the process of photosynthesis hence revolutionise food and synthetic fuel production – To harness the power of the sun by perfecting the nuclear fusion reactor that is safer and cleaner than that of energy produced by nuclear fission and perfecting the quantum computer that is capable of analysing vast datasets at lightning speed – To solve the technological problem of carbon capture in sufficient quantity to combat the Climate Crisis – Other uses are in assisting synthetic biology research and inventing new life-saving drugs and achieving medical advancement via DNA manipulation – To analyse weather and marine datasets to more accurately predict natural disasters such as hurricanes and tsunamis and perfecting self-drive cars and programme robots to serve us in a military, factory and home environment context etc. The drudgery of administrative and bureaucratic organisation and its attendant paperwork could be automatically processed releasing employees from their tedious roles to engage in more meaningful work. A caveat to this Want List is that we have to be very careful for what we wish for! Could there be an opportunity for AI to focus on the recovery of Nature? When all aspects are considered, Man's survival depends on Nature's survival.

Conversely, there are those who would use AI for their nefarious deeds and making excess profit without ethical consideration to the environment – The blight of hackers holding the IT of nation-states, targeted networks and individuals to ransom and seriously disrupting businesses could be better safeguarded by even better IT cybersecurity in the form of unbreakable encryption – By creating plague-like viruses and contagious diseases with the purpose of using them as weapons – By using synthetic media technology, AI can produce convincing but deceptive video recordings of people whereby the person who is speaking is presenting a different dialogue from what was originally said. An illegal tool known as "deepfake" to help spread disinformation and even return an untrue result at the ballot box. AI is already assisting the criminal community to inflict harm on society.

Another downside to AI is that their datacentres require a significant amount of continuous energy and water to keep their servers and security systems cool 24/7 that diverts our green energy away big time from heating homes, powering businesses, manufacturing and public services as well as depleting water supplies.

It is not difficult to see that there are two very different sides to the AI coin. At present, between countries, there is no agreed consensus of opinion as to how AI should be framed in international law. It is perhaps fanciful but academics in this field have posed the question – Is it possible that AI, with its super intelligence and its rapid analytical powers, make the transition from being controlled by us to controlling us? AI would then be in charge of its own agenda and of our destiny. The genie would then be out of the bottle…

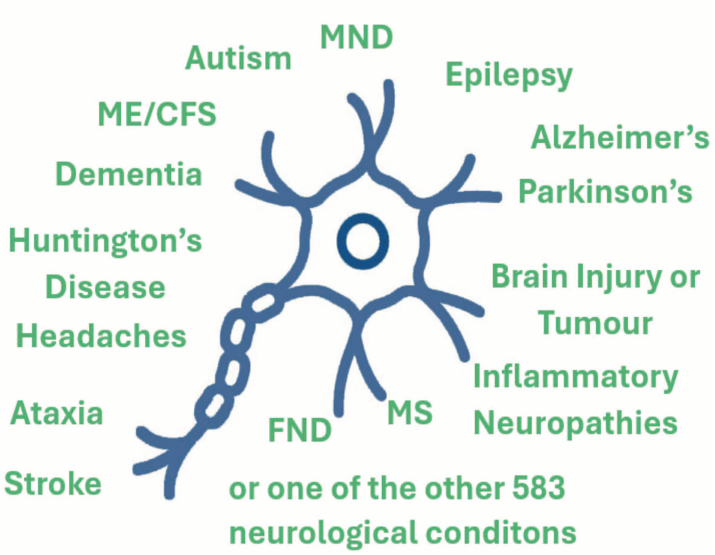
J. H. Smart

Do you, or someone you know, have a neurological condition?

Essex Neurology Network is a local organisation, which brings together neurology service providers, national and local support organisations, researchers, and, more importantly, people, families and carers affected by neurological conditions.

Founded in 2008, we have grown in the past two years and cover the whole of Essex including Southend & Thurrock. Membership of the Network is free and is open to everyone who supports the Network's aims. Through our free open meetings and news bulletins, we provide a regular forum for the exchange of information, skills and expertise on many neurological issues, as well as promoting models of best practice in neurological care.

We aim to help people in Essex living with a neurological condition, as well as their families and carers, by providing support, and signposting them to practical advice. We also raise awareness of the understanding and treatment of neurological conditions, by providing information, and organising events and meetings; whilst inspiring and encouraging links between neurological service providers, voluntary sector support organisations and others with an interest in the neurosciences, encouraging research, and organising opportunities for collaboration.



Essex Neurology Network

Do contact us if you are interested!

Email: ***essexneuronetwork@gmail.com*** *Web:* ***Essex Neurology Network | University of Essex*** *(work in progress)*

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Dates for your Diary!





Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings** Planning, **8th December, 6th, 20th January, 3rd February,** Health, Wellbeing and Environment **1st December, 13th January**, Finance and General Purpose **2nd December, 15th January**, Full Council. **10th December, 22nd January** All meetings start at 7pm.



Clubs and Societies

- **Anna's Place** For older adults. Dementia friendly. Crafts, puzzles, games, music, singing, lunch, and refreshments 10.30am -2pm **every Tuesday**, Christ Church Hall, Perry Street, Billericay. For more information phone 01277 630144
- **Basildon and Billericay French Circle Friday 16th January** 8pm. Grandir a la campagne dans les annees cinquante et soixante', a talk in French by Babette Knott. **Friday 6th February** 8pm George Sand, a talk in French by Gosia Edwards. All welcome. Visitors £5 Meetings held at The Fold, Laindon Rd. CM12 9LD. www,basildonandbillericayfrenchcircle.com or contact 07986 293419.
- **Basildon Mind** A local Charity focusing on helping people with their mental health. We hold pop-ups at the Humankind Café **every Wednesday**. We are still looking for Billericay Representatives. Contacts: 01268 289700, john@basmind.org
- **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society** meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, **Monday December 8th** Picasso – Chris White. Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments £1 per person. Contact alantaylor8@openworld.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 Choral Society** – Come and Sing, **Tuesdays** at 7.30pm, (term time only) at Methodist Church, Western Road, Billericay. P
- **Billericay Flower Arranging Group** meet on **1st Wednesday of each month** at 7.30pm for 8pm start in WI Hall, St Edith's Lane, Billericay . Visitors welcome at £7 each. Contact Linda Gilbey on 01277 656217 or email ljgilbey@aol.com
- **Billericay Horticultural Society Monday 15th December** Christmas Party – Members only. Meet at Chantry Centre from 8-10pm. Visitors welcome £3.00. Refreshments available 43trouble@gmail.com
- **Billericay Lions Club** meet in The Duchess Suite at The Duke's Head PH on the **second Monday 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
- **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 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 Town Twinning** is holding a Quiz at The Chantry Centre on **Saturday 7th February 2026**. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Price £6. Bring your own drink and nibbles.
- **Billericay United Reform Church Festive Fayre** 11.30am-2.30pm at Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street, Billericay. www.billericayurc.org.uk. For premises booking please contact by email caroloconnor51@gmail.com
- **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
- **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. Parents are given a warm and friendly welcome in a safe environment. Contact Lyn on 07387805406 or e-mail lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk 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
- **Mayflower Morris Men** The town's Morris Men practise on **Thursday** in St Mary Magdalen, High Street at 7.30pm.Beginners, dancers and musicians – old and young welcome! Tuition is free. You supply the hankies, we do the rest. For more information 01277 654228 or http//www.mayflowermorris.com. Forthcoming meetings are **December 4th, January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, February 5th, 12, 19th** and **26th**
- **Offshoots Singing Group** meet on **1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month** at St Johns Church, Outwood Common Rd CM11 2LE from 7.45-9.45pm. No auditions. Parking on site. Contact geoffrudd47@gmail.com or phone 07763424206.
- **Photofold Camera Club** meet at The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way on **Tuesdays** 8-10pm, doors open at 7.30pm. Info at www.photofold.org.uk

- **Probus Retired Men's Club** Join other retired professional and businessmen at our **monthly** lunch, usually with a Speaker. Contact Steve on 07817 694980 or stevejk88@outlook.com for more details.
- **Probus Club of Billericay and Shenfield** welcome retired gentlemen members to our 3-course lunch meetings, which includes a guest Speaker at Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite, Hutton on the **last Thursday of every month**. Please contact ianmarshall112@gmail.com for more information.
- **Billericay Ladies Probus Club** If you are retired and would like to make new friends, join us for a **monthly** lunch, chat, and speaker. Contact stephanie4probus@gmail.com for more details.
- **Outwood Common Tenants and Residents** - Chat with a Cuppa - A warm space and a friendly face **every Friday** 10-11.30am, for an informal chat, a cuppa, and biscuits. Everyone welcome. St. John's Church, Outwood Common Rd CM11 2LE
- **Remus Horse Sanctuary 14th December** Carol Service 1-2.30pm at the Sanctuary. Due to parking, exclusively for members and sponsors. If coming in car with empty seats non-members welcome; **21st Decembe**r Curry Lunch at Nirvana Indian Restaurant, Ingatestone. £22 per person. 2pm for 2.15pm start. Booking essential; Contact Office 01277 356191; Contact https://www.remussaecembernctuary.org/events.
- **Royal British Legion Billericay Branch** meets on **last Wednesday of the month** at 8pm in the Chantry Centre. You do not have to have served in the Forces to join or help. Contact Derek on 07757 31368, derekgprior@hotmail.com
- **Spike's Place Jazz Club** Bardswell Social Club, Weald Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4TJ. 8pm start. Telephone 01245 420475. Wwwspikesplace.co.uk. £15 on door, full line ups on website. Fully accessible. **Tuesday 2nd December** Sam Braysher, Fraser Urquhart, Asaph Tal, Joe Dessauer; **Tuesday 9th December** Alison Neale, Colin Oxley, Andy Cleyndert, Matt Skelton; **Tuesday 16th December** The Zak Barrett Quartet (with free mince pies).
- **The Next Chapter Bereavement Group** We meet **every 2nd Saturday of the month** at Emmanuel Church Hall at 10.30am-12.30 for coffee and chats for widows and widowers. For more information ring Sandra 07957 348006
- **U3a** Membership Subscription is £15 for the year, £10 if joining after 1st October. Guests are invited to attend 2 meetings a year at a charge of £2. If they then decide to join, this fee will be refunded. Meetings start at 2.30pm, Canon Roche Centre, 21, Laindon Road, Billericay.
- **APPLE Bridge** Friendly Club meets at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue on **Wednesday mornings** for duplicate sessions at 9.45. Cost ist £4 per session. Bring own refreshments. Phone 07552 753075.
- **Anne Owen Bridge Club** meets at Hannakins Farm Community Centre, Rosebay Avenue CM12 0SY on **Tuesday afternoons** at 1.15pm for 1.30pm start for friendly bridge. Members £3, Visitors £4 per person per session. For further information, contact Mrs Janet L'Estrange on 01277 624078.

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



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 4years+ Visit 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/lakemeadows-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
- **Outwood Common Tenants and Residents** – Seated Yoga **Friday** 11.15-11.45am at St John's Church. £1.50 a session. **First session free.** Open to everyone of all ages and abilities

To advertise your event here, please email resident@bdra.org

Deadline for the next issue is 15th January for events taking place between 10th February and 10th March

THE CHIROPRACTIC CENTRE
BILLERICAY • BRENTWOOD

DO YOU HAVE PAIN?

Call us TODAY on
01277 631025

- Low back pain
- Neck pain (including Whiplash)
- Hip and knee osteoarthritis
- Shoulder pain
- "Frozen" shoulder
- Tennis elbow
- Knee pain
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Dizziness (cervicogenic)
- Migraine and headaches



Computer Problems?

Don't struggle to carry it up to the shop or put up with expensive call out charges.

Call Gary Mander,
Computer Technician
on 01277 636358
for a no obligation chat

Gary@PCTechnician.co.uk

No Call Out Charge!



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.

Kathleen and Yvonne would like to thank all the residents who have supported the trips and to wish them all a Happy Xmas and a Healthy New Year

NEW OXFORD CHRISTMAS FOOD AND GIFT MARKET. A CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE FOR ALL – SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

FULL – Please Pay Now

This Christmas, the historic Broad Street in Oxford City Center, will be transformed into a magical celebration of all things Christmas. From the moment you arrive you will be greeted by twinkling lights, alpine chalets, extended hours and plenty of artisan gifts, local makers and comforting street food. Wander between carol performances, cosy bars and photo-ready views of the dreaming spires. Warm up with hot chocolate or Gluhwein, soak up the festival atmosphere and make your winter day truly magical.

Cost: Coach £24.00

Depart: GG 08.15am. OA 08.20am. LR 08.30am. SG 08.35am. Arrive back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

Yvonne Cave, 11 The Vale, Stock, Ingatestone, Essex. CM4 9PW.

Telephone 01277 840560

MORNING AT RUXLEY MANOR GARDEN CENTRE – AFTERNOON AT CAMDEN PLACE, FOR A TALK AND TOUR OF THE HOUSE, COFFEE/TEA AND CAKE – THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2026

SEATS AVAILABLE

We start our day at Ruxley Manor garden centre, who have maintained their ranking as a Garden Centre Of Excellence and have been ranked 3rd Best Garden Centre in the UK 2023. More than a garden centre, Ruxley Manor not only covers all your garden needs, from plants to furniture but has departments to enhance your home. Home Accessories, Home Furnishing and Home and Kitchen and much more. In the Food Hall you'll find an abundance of locally made and sourced food. The Mulberry Tree Cafe will be open serving breakfast, brunch, sweet treats, and of course Liquid refreshments. We then make our way to Camden Place for a 2 hour talk and tour. We leave for home after coffee/tea and cake. Antiquarian William Camden built a house on the site in 1607 but the current property dates from 1717. The building is a grade II listed building of great architectural and historic importance, having been the place of exile and death of the French emperor Napoleon III. There is full disabled access, with the exception of one room where a doorway makes wheelchair access difficult.

Cost: £46.50 which includes coach, tour and refreshments.

Depart: GG 8.30am. OA 8.35am. LR 8.45am SG 8.50am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

Yvonne Cave, 11 The Vale, Stock, Ingatestone, Essex. CM4 9PW.

Telephone 01277 840560

COACH HOLIDAY • COACH HOLIDAY

IMPERIAL HOTEL EASTBOURNE – SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2026 - WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 2026

★ NOW FULL ★
PLEASE ENQUIRE ABOUT WAITING LIST IF INTERESTED

Included:-

- 5 days half board
- 2 full day excursions (places to be arranged)
- 1 evening half price bar (5pm till 9pm)
- Entertainment every evening

Pick up times and full itinerary will be in the February Resident.

The Imperial Hotel is ideally situated 100yards from the beach and close to the shops. All rooms have a television and tea and coffee making facilities. There is a lift and also a bar and a separate lounge area. A coffee shop and snack bar are situated in the hotel. Wi Fi is available. There are 16 single room available with no single supplement. (Only one room per person can be booked).

Cost: £299.00. Deposit £30. Balance due by the 14th of January.

Kathleen Fox, 72 Perry Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 0ND.

Telephone: 01277 622342

In case of cancellation please arrange your own insurance as a refund can only be given if your room can be reallocated

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.