

# *The Resident*

*Billericay District Residents' Association*



"Help us to help you"



March 2024



Photo: David Hayday

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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

### Road representatives

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?

This volunteer role would suit anyone who is retired, working part time or from home and who wants to give something back to the community and stay active!

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

Without the support of our volunteer Road Reps we would not be able to get our magazine to your doors.

**Balmoral Close, James Square / Hillside Road / Hillside Close / Brookside / Brookside Close**

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

**Knightbridge Walk / Hares Close and Ricketts Drive / Brightside (part) and Brightside Close**

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

**Ganels Close / Ganels Road / Passingham Avenue / Leaway and Longrise (GB09)**

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

### Area Membership Secretary required 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. It will involve overseeing RRs in your area and dealing with subscription monies collected by Road Reps (cash, cheque, bank transfer).



## MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS DUE FOR 2024

Just a reminder for those of you who pay your subscription by bank transfer, they are now due. The current membership subscription to the BDRA is £3 annually. For those of you who would like to pay by bank transfer, please email [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org), and request our bank details that will enable you to make payment in this manner.

# BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"



## Local Plan Update

Further to our article last month, the Leader of Basildon Council, and Burstead Ward councillor, Andrew Baggott, has written to the Government reiterating that the council plans to stick with original timescales and submit a new Local Plan for examination in mid-2026, and not a year earlier as the Government was suggesting in a letter to the council last December.

Somewhat ironically, in last year's public consultation on the new Local Plan, a large number of people said that they would like to see an earlier start date for the plan, rather than 2027 which is when the council aim to have it finally adopted. A large proportion of people responding to the consultation said that the Green Belt should be protected, and Brownfield land should be prioritised for new development. The full report on the Issues & Option consultation should be published on the council's website by the time you read this.

The next major event should be the publication of a draft Local Plan later this year, showing for the first time the sites that are being allocated for development. There will be another public consultation at that point.

### Some good news – but we need your help!

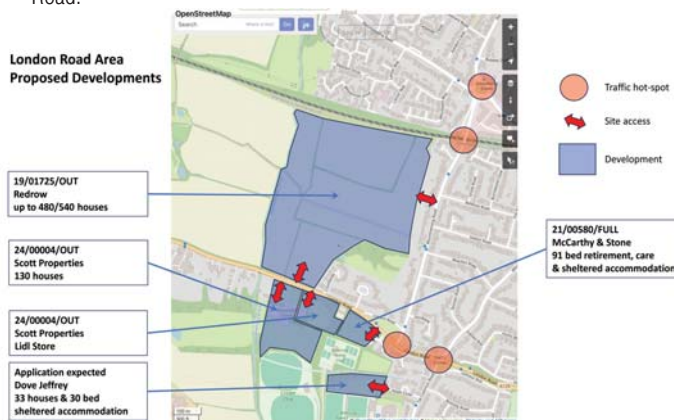
In January we were delighted to learn that Basildon had won the Potash Road appeal – the Planning Inspector agreed with Basildon that the 150 houses and care home proposed there shouldn't go ahead. This site would have been destroyed, and the area blighted, under the withdrawn Plan.

Councillors had recently started approving Green Belt applications that were in the old Plan – such as at Southend Road in Billericay, with some despairing of the possibility of winning appeals.

Were they throwing in the towel, or picking their battles?

We need the Potash Road victory to encourage them, as they will soon have two or more major planning applications to decide – on either side of London Road in SW Billericay. And for this we need your help too!

- Scott Housing have submitted an application for an out-of-town Lidl supermarket and 130 houses south of London Road.
- While Redrow plan 480 houses north of London Road west of Mountnessing Road.



Please take the chance to comment on these planning applications – The BAG website has further details of these proposals, and how to respond ([www.billericayactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.billericayactiongroup.org.uk)), and join the BAG Facebook Group "Save Billericay from Housing Developments".

# Letters to the Editor...

## Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article entitled "BT's Digital Voice is coming". (February 2024 page 4)

Forewarned that in an 'event' my alarm system would no longer automatically ring out to my contact(s) once BT Digital Voice arrives in Billericay, I contacted my alarm company for further information. They confirmed the above, and told me that I will need a complete new alarm box and keypad at a cost of £600!

I find it outrageous that through no fault of their own people are now expected to pay extortionate sums to replace a perfectly good burglar alarm that is not broken, just because BT decide to change systems without even a contingency plan in place.

Does anybody know if this issue is being addressed to stop BT forcing this new system upon us fait accompli?

Many thanks,

Neil Stanley

## Dear Editor,

Further to the ongoing chaos which has laughingly been called improved refuse collection!

The only improvement I can identify is for the staff that operate the new system; we, the residents now sort our refuse into 7 different receptacles i.e. 2 wheelie bins (1 green and 1 black) 1 orange box 1 green food canister in which we insert a grey canister which we line with a green plastic bag (optional) 1 white and 1 blue plastic bag both of which are awkward and cumbersome to handle. Apart from the amount of space all these items take up, we have to make sure we make them available for collection on the correct week. Collection day has become somewhat of a nightmare.

I live in a 2 up and 2 down mid terrace property which does not allow for huge amounts of bins/bags etcetera to be left outside (apart from that, these items are not easy on the eye).

It goes without saying, our Council Tax will not be reduced to cover all the extra aggravation these changes have caused and what about the council staff who used to be responsible for sorting/grading these collections have they been sacked?

I have not even started on what all these expensive items have cost; no, don't tell me; We residents will have to suffer an increase in council tax!

Oh! happy days...

One very disgruntled resident

## Dear Editor,

If they want people to move to Billericay, then they should improve the bus service. It would appear that since they cut the number 9 down to one an hour they have got rid of surplus buses. The buses are breaking down with no replacement buses available. Today I went to catch the 09.56. It broke down at Hillway.

Yours faithfully,


Steve Ford

## 2023 Billericay High Street report

**C**omparing the '2023 High St Logging' to the pre-Covid (2019) version, the most noticeable change is the Food Hospitality section which has grown from 45 to 55. It looks like the eateries are doing well and are here to stay.

Independent Retail has decreased from 42 to 37 while Chain Retail has decreased from 22 to 20. The Bank section however has gone from 6 to 1.

Maybe the most surprising result is that the Empty category has only gone from 11 to 13 over 4 years. Once the Community Café has opened that will make it 12. Maybe things are not as bad as they look and holding out for more shops rather than turning the empty buildings into residential on ground level is worth fighting for.

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# BT's tEE thing trouble!

**M**ike Andrews's article on the switch from BT to EE in the last issue wastimely. On 17th January I noticed an error in my BT bill (for 5 months I was charged for an X-Box I didn't have) and phoned Customer Services for a refund. The BT 'guide' (as operatives are now called) said "A technical fault has caused this to happen a lot lately." A £50 credit would be on my next bill. While she dealt with this, she told me that within 18 months all domestic subscribers would be switched to EE...BUT if I did so NOW, there were offers and reductions to be had. She came up with an offer I couldn't refuse and I agreed to switch, like for like.

The new hub and adapter came by post and an EE technician installed it free of charge on the 26th. The broadband worked fine but our landline and new adapter had to be near a plug point. Mine wasn't so I had to move our wall-mounted phone to another room not where we wanted it. Nothing had been mentioned about this in the original sales pitch and I asked the technician whether this was a common problem for him. His less than helpful response to both questions was "Tell me about it!" We then found that EE had not sent a second adapter for the answerphone extension upstairs; he told me to phone EE to order one. The technician was helpful and talked me through what to do when it arrived. Ten minutes after he left, I found that our landline would no longer accept calls from O2 (and other) mobile networks.

I immediately phoned EE to order a second adapter and to report the O2 fault with the phone. The 'guide' was friendly, helpful, but surprised EE hadn't changed my telephone number(!) He also said that the technician should have told me that

EE charged for a second adapter but because of the O2 problem (which he would get fixed remotely) he would send me a free one. On my next bill I would receive a charge for it and a credit at the same time.

Unbelievably my first EE bill arrived by e-mail late on the 27th. It included the cost of and credit for the second adapter but omitted the £50 X-Box refund. I had also originally asked to be billed quarterly (as with BT) but this was a monthly bill. Before I could phone to get this corrected, EE texted me that the O2 problem was fixed! We tested the landline but found that my it was dead: we could neither make nor receive calls.

On the 28th I phoned EE on my mobile to report the fault, get quarterly bills, and get my X-Box refund. We needed a second mobile to receive the OTP code with which to identify ourselves. A technician was able to fix the O2 and landline problems remotely while on the line; we arranged for my refund to be paid directly into my bank account; but EE was only able to issue monthly bills.

On the 30th my final BT was e-mailed to me. I could view it via a link. Or rather I couldn't. I was no longer a BT subscriber therefore I had no account and no link. I phoned BT to ask for a paper final bill to be sent. The 'guide' arranged this but noticed that it contained a £43 refund (because payment is made in advance). He told me I wouldn't get this unless I claimed it, which I then did. It should be paid into my bank account directly in late February(!) Fingers crossed!

By the 31st I still hadn't been notified of the dispatch of my second adapter for the answerphone extension so I phoned EE and was told that the 'guide' of the 26th had forgotten to order it. I was promised that one would be sent first thing. It arrived on 3rd February. I set it up but although the extension worked, the answerphone was not recording any messages. In addition on the 4th we found that when we had an incoming call and my wife and I both wanted take part in the chat using both phones as in the past (a 3-way call), we found we couldn't. Either the landline would cut out the extension or vice versa.

On the 4th I phoned EE and was told that 3-way calls were not a feature of EE's service and my answerphone might not be compatible. Dissatisfied, I phoned BT to explain the problem and to say that this was not the 'like for like' I had been promised. I spoke to 'guide' Jacqui from Lincoln (who MUST be the star employee of the year). She told me that my two phones were not 'talking' to one another. She checked my contract and said that 3-way calls WERE definitely part of the agreement and BT had failed to honour it. As a solution she said she would send me two new SMART Digital Wi-fi phones free of charge. Three-way calls would then be possible. In addition my answerphone should then work.

All the kit arrived on the 7th. I set it up and it works (so far). Except for my answerphone. However that is no longer a problem because the shiny new black phones have voicemail which means callers' messages can be retrieved.

A word to the wise. EE staff have been well-trained in terms of affability not always so much in professionalism. Calls to customer services can take anything from 1 to 45 minutes to get through. Be patient, polite and persistent. No doubt, when it comes to YOUR turn, most of you will have a trouble-free conversion. If not, at least you now know what expect: a Shakespearean tale of confusion, mixed messages, and mistakes. But fear not, for All's Well That Ends Well in BT's Comedy of EErrors.

*Julian Whybra*

## What is Walking Football?

### Calling Ladies Over 40 – Fancy a game of Walking Football?

**B**illerica Town Walking Football Club started its Ladies sessions in Autumn 2022 and now have 35 members of different ages/abilities – we have six players over 60 and one 70+. Some had never kicked a football before but have improved hugely over that time.

What is Walking Football? It's "what it says on the tin" – it's 6-a-side football at walking pace, played on a quarter size pitch.

The ball cannot go above head height and goals are about hockey size and, of course, no running. It's great fun and a good workout.

For those who fancy getting more involved, we are entering two teams in the Essex Women's Walking Football League for 2024. But it's fine if you just fancy a friendly kick around, many of our players do.

We're always looking for new members. Our regular sessions are on a Monday evening at 7pm and just £5.00. But we are holding a free "taster session" on Saturday 20th April at Billericay Town FC 12:00-14:00 – why not come along and have a go?

Any questions? contact **Cheron 07827 995601** or **Billy 07759 544940** or email **BTFCWF@gmail.com**

There is also a Men's Group, who train Mondays at 20:00 and Thursdays at 10:00 – but that's for over 50s. Call Billy (see above) for information.



## Gone Too Soon

**'G**one Too Soon' is an Essex based bereavement support group for Parents who have lost a Son or Daughter of any age, in whatever circumstances and if recent or a while ago.

The group was launched in July 2017 by Lyn as she wanted to make contact and talk to other parents who were in a similar situation and had also lost children. She had lost her Son, Tony in April 2015. He was 35 years old and died as a result of a brain tumour.

Monthly meetings take place in The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, Billericay from 7.00p.m. – 9.00m. p.m. Prior to new parents coming to the meeting, Lyn encourages them to give her a call and she is happy to meet up on a one-to-one basis to introduce herself as she knows how daunting it can be to walk into a room full of strangers and share something so personal.

There is a bond between parents who have lost a child and talking to someone who can relate and understand the feelings helps you to realise you are not alone as it can be a very isolating place to be. The death of a child is probably the most devastating experience any parent will go through and it is not something you get over – but in time you can come to manage it.

Parents are given a warm and friendly welcome in a safe environment. Refreshments are provided and the environment is made to feel very informal with the option to 'drop in' to meetings as and when it's needed.

**For more information and a chat, give Lyn a call on 07387 805 406 or email [lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk). Alternatively visit [www.gone-too-soon.online](http://www.gone-too-soon.online)**



# FREE TICKETS TO SPIRIT AND WELLBEING SHOW

Now in its 6th successful year, the Soul Spirit & Wellbeing Festival returns to Ramsden Bellhouse Community Centre on Saturday April 6th with over 40 stands offering a variety of therapies and treatments, crystals, natural beauty, fashion and food, plus some of the UK's finest readers. Sponsored by The Billericay Realtor.

We have a family ticket worth £20 to giveaway, for your chance to win, send an email with Resident giveaway to

[abby@abbyknight.co.uk](mailto:abby@abbyknight.co.uk)

Winner drawn at random.



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# The Library

**W**hen was the last time you visited a library? When you were a child? Maybe when you were at school or university? Libraries are apparently a dying breed and in constant threat of closure in this age of technology but do you realise how many services they actually provide?

At the Billericay library you can check out the usual fiction, non fiction, large print, young adult, reference books and DVDs, they also have quite a large number of computers people can book up and use to access the internet.

In the library the children's corner is particularly delightful with bright comfy seating and colourful wall displays by local primary schools. They run a rhyme time singalong every Friday between 11-11.30am aimed a pre-school children. They also run a summer and winter reading challenge for kids, they can obtain a medal for simply reading in the holidays!

The library also hosts a 'warm welcome' for all residents on Tuesday afternoons between 10am-1pm with free tea or coffee and different activities available. If knitting is your thing, then they host a 'knit and Banter' afternoon on Tuesdays between 2-4pm. They have IT support on Wednesday afternoons between 1.30-4.30pm.

That's great I hear you say but what if I really want the latest Stephen King or

Margaret Atwood but I can't find it? This is my favourite part of the library service! If you go into the library website you can search online in libraries all over Essex and the book you require can be delivered to the Billericay library for you to collect. All you need is a library card which is free of charge as are most of the services the library provides.

Next time you are in the high street, take the time to pop into the library and see for yourself what services they have to offer. The library is located at 43 High Street, Billericay.

## To join the Library

Pop into your local library to join and get your membership number and library card.

For full adult membership, you will need to bring identification that includes your name and address. This can be a driving licence, bank statement or recent utility bill.

Or register online by visiting <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/user/register>

By Angela Chapman



**BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY OPEN DAY**

**FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024**  
**10AM - 3PM**  
 The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way

**COME ALONG AND MEET WITH LOCAL CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS**

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Tickets available from:- The Rotary Club of Billericay <https://bit.ly/RCAntiques2024>

 **BUY TICKETS**





**W**e so often hear grumbles that Basildon Council does nothing for Billericay. Well, they might have made a mistake with the bins recently, but Lake Meadows has certainly benefited from investment this year! Whilst all over the UK, other councils are cutting their budgets for parks by £20 per person, here in Billericay we have had a huge investment for the future.

The new skatepark is well underway, although the recent wet weather may have delayed the finish date a little! Hopefully, it will be opened by the late Spring, in time for all our youngsters to enjoy using it over the summer. Hopefully too, it should be outdoor proof! Nearby, the vandol gym has been reinstalled with a new soft surface beneath it. So plenty of opportunities there to follow up on your New Year's resolution.

The new modern design noticeboards, complete with 'green' roofs are due to be installed soon at the park. Basildon Council is renewing all their park boards, so that they have a unique corporate image.



Many of you will have seen the new Changing Places unit between the café and our Information hut. It does not look very exciting but inside are modern changing facilities, including a shower and toilet, which is available for disabled users should they need it.

Situated outside this unit, next to a slim grey metal box, is an unusual looking royal blue object. It's about a metre and a half tall and has various buttons and appendages to it. Whatever can it be? It looks rather like an old fire hydrant. In fact, you'd be fairly close with that description! For those of you who have investigated, you may have discovered our new



Photo: Lynn Cooper

state-of-the-art drinking water fountain. Bought by the Friends of Lake Meadows two or three years ago, and delayed by the Covid pandemic, the unit has been waiting for a suitable moment to be installed by Basildon BC. There are three parts to it – a bottle filling spout at the top, then a drinking fountain and finally a dog bowl at ground level – the latter has to be filled from a water bottle! So even if it is another hot summer, we should all be able to get free water to drink, dogs included!

Next door, we are planning to give the Friend's Information Hut a much-needed facelift, with new panels and a few new coats of paint on the outside. Not many people realise what a gem lies inside this little hut. The walls are covered with information about the history of the park; there are

old photos from the past showing the boats, the Fort and old play equipment. Information is available about the trees in the park, including a new map showing over 50 named trees. If anyone is interested do call in when the hut is open. We do very much need some more volunteers to help man the hut. It only involves sitting outside, talking to people for a couple of hours a week or fortnight – do contact us if you could help! And of course, now gardening has started up again on Tuesday mornings, we always can do with extra help there to look after all the flower beds.

For more information do contact us via our secretary  
[secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk)  
 or see our website  
[www.lakemeadows.org.uk](http://www.lakemeadows.org.uk)

## Billericay parkrun – what's that all about?

**W**ith Spring finally with us, it's a great time to remind everyone just what parkrun is all about and how you can be a part of it.

Well, it's...

- fun and absolutely free!
- weekly; every Saturday morning with briefings from 08:45
- a timed 5k (3.11m) around the lovely park at Lake Meadows
- not a race. Walk, jog, run, volunteer, or spectate – just get involved as suits you
- so simple; no need to book, just a one time quick & easy registration at [www.parkrun.org.uk/register](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/register)
- for everyone from 4 years old to 104 and beyond!

A fantastic habit – getting outdoors, getting active and getting social with friends and family.

*Still not sure?* Why not see for yourself on a Saturday soon. Listen to the briefings, chat to the volunteers, and see how varied a community of friendly locals we all are.

To find out more visit:-

**[Billericay.parkrun@billericayparkrun.org.uk](mailto:Billericay.parkrun@billericayparkrun.org.uk)**  
**[parkrun.org.uk/billericay](http://parkrun.org.uk/billericay)**





## Why you need a will, regardless of wealth

**A**s a wills lawyer, I often hear people say that they do not own their home outright, so they think they do not need to put a will in place. A common misconception is that you have to be extremely wealthy to put a will in place. No matter how large or small your assets are, it is always important to have a will that outlines who you would like to inherit your estate.

If you pass away without leaving a will, then the rules of intestacy will follow, which are a strict set of rules which will determine who will inherit your estate. This could mean that your partner, friends and charities receive nothing under your will. It is, therefore, important to seek professional legal advice.

No matter your age, as long as you are over 18, you can put in place a will, and you have something you need to protect.

Whether this be money in a bank account or personal possessions or if you own part of a house, you can list who you would like to inherit these assets.

To plan for a meeting with a will specialist, you need to bring a rough estimated value of your assets, such as your bank accounts, property, personal possessions and pensions. It is also a good idea to think about your family structure and whether there is anyone you would like to



include as a beneficiary of your estate or if there is anyone you want to leave out.

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

**Emma Clarke**  
emma.clarke@birkettlong.co.uk  
call 01245 453833

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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](mailto:chairman@thereadingrooms.org)*



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

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

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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, 7th, 12th, 26th March; Health, Wellbeing and Environment 2nd April; Finance and General Purpose; Town Council 7th March
- **BDRA Meetings: Thursday 14th March** 7.30pm at The Reading Rooms. All members welcome. Contact us on resident@bdra.org.



## Clubs and Societies

- **Basildon and Billericay French Circle** meet at The Fold, Laindon Rd, **Friday 15th March** at 8pm 'Toulouse Lautrec and Aristide Bruant' – a talk in French by Vincent Raymond Barker. All welcome visitors £5 www.basildonandbillericayfrenchcircle.com or contact 07986 293419
- **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society** meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, **Monday March 11th** Art of the First World War – Chris White Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments 50p per person. Contact 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 ljlgbey@oal.com
- **Billericay Horticultural Society** meet at the Chantry Centre from 8pm-10pm, visitors welcome £3.00. Refreshments available. **18th March** Jacqueline Aviolet – Botanist or Not? Plant origins, history and cultivation, Contact 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
- **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 Choral Society Saturday 16th March** at 7.30pm Faure Requiem and Rutter Gloria with organ and soloists Emmanuel Church, Laindon Road, CM12 9LD. Tickets £12 in advance, £15 on the door, www.billericaychoral.co.uk or phone 01277 625667 or Slipped Discs, Billericay High St. (cash only).
- **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 United Reform Church** Charities Tables Sale on **Saturday 23rd March** 9.30am -12noon. at Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street. Billericay. All welcome.
- **Billericay WEA** at The Reading Rooms, Billericay High Street CM12 9AS. Learning Circle/Friendship Tea with Mel Jackson Bridge – a family history mystery – **Wednesday 13th March** 2-4pm. Donations please. Contact billericay.branch@wea.ac.uk or 01277 598568. A short course-3 Marys with Ted Woodgate **20th March** 2-4pm, fee £10. Ref: Q00011700. Enrol www.wea.org.uk
- **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 **Monday 11th March** 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 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** Practice for new season **Thursdays from 4th January** at St Mary Magdalen, High St. at 7.30pm Beginners – dancer and musicians all welcome. Tuition free, you supply the hankies, we do the rest. For more information: 01277 654228 or www.mayflowermorrismen.com
- **Norsey Wood Society** Next illustrated talk at 7.45pm on **Monday 18th March** at The Fold, Laindon Rd, CM12 9LD. Jamie Smith, Warden of RSPB, Rainham Marshes Nature Reserve will be present – The Military Marsh- from Shooting Range to Wildlife Haven. History and home to nationally important wildlife and flora. Everyone welcome to this free event. Norseywoodsociety.uk or mail norseywoodsociety@gmail.com if more detail required.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Remus Horse Sanctuary 16th March** Wine Tasting, New Hall Estate's Tour and Tasting – 2-4pm. Tickets £35. Booking essential, limited spaces (16 only). No under 18s. Phone 01277 356191; 24th March– Online Auction via Remus Facebook Page. Starts 11am, **24th March** Curry Lunch at Nirvana Indian Restaurant, Ingatestone. £20 per person. 2pm for 2.15pm start. Booking essential. **7th April**

Virtual Open Day – via the Remus Facebook Page. 11am-1pm Contact: <https://www.remussanctuary.org/events>.

- **Rotary Club of Billericay Antiques Event 16th March** – See advert on page 5 for more details
- **Spike's Place Jazz Club** Bardwell Social Club, Weald Rd, Brentwood CM14 4TJ. 8pm start. Telephone 01245 420475, www.spikesplace.co.uk or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Prices and full line-ups listed on website. Fully accessible. **5th March** Julian Marc, Stringle, Simon Wallace, Jerome Davies, Richard Pite; **12th March** Jacqui Hicks Quartet; **19th March** Al Nicholls, Richard Busiakewicz, Julian Bury, Rod Brown
- **Stock Brook Ladies Probus Group** meets on the **3rd Wednesday of each month** to listen to a speaker and take lunch together at Crondon Park Golf Club. All are welcome. Please contact stockbrookladiesprobus@talktalk.net for more details.
- **The Wallace Singers** Spring Concert – 'Viva Musica' – **Saturday 23rd March** at 7.30pm at The Wessex Auditorium, Brentwood School, Middleton Hall Lane CM15 8EE. Tickets £15, Under 14s £8 Box Office: 07981030481, thewallacesingers.boxoffice@gmail.com

## 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



## 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/lakemeadows-juniors/](http://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 btfcw@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 March for events taking place between 10th April and 9th May

# 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.*

## NEW FOR 2024! COACH HOLIDAY

### IMPERIAL HOTEL EASTBOURNE SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

**Saturday 9th March** – travel to Easbourne with stop half way for lunch

**Sunday 10th March** – at leisure

**Monday 11th March** – Brighton (optional)

**Tuesday 12th March** – Rye and Hastings (optional)

**Wednesday 13th March** – travelling home

*Pick up times for the holiday are*

**Depart** QPR 9.40am. GG 10.00am. OA 10.15am. LR 10.30am. SG 10.45am.

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

### 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 breathtaking 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 MERRIMENTS 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.