The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association

"Help us to help you"

Billericay Action Group

November 2025



Photo: Corfe Castle, Dorset by Stephen Stringer winner of the Hillary Cup – 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.

- **Mountnessing Road** ***(15 members)***
- **Courtlands, Kenilworth Close and London Road** ***(23 members)***

Contact gordon2908@me.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

Distributor

A vacancy has arisen for a Distributor to be part of our distribution network. The volunteer will have editions of The Resident delivered to them, and will then be responsible for delivering a specific number to each of 11 Road reps, in the Mountnessing Road area, who will deliver the magazines to our members. The use of a car would be useful for which a mileage allowance may be claimed.

Contact gordon2908@me.com

Thank you to…

Bill West and Chris Crane who have been distributors and road reps for many years but are no longer able to volunteer. Thank you, Bill and Chris, for all your help, from the Committee and the Members; we wish you well for the future.

BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"

The team from Billericay Action Group and the BDRA Vice-Chair, Stephen Chapman met with our MP on 10th October to discuss a number of issues critical to the people of Billericay, including the local plan, large housing development and the Local Government reorganisation proposals.

Local Government Reorganisation

The discussion on the Local Government reorganisation was helpful to us in learning more about the perceived rationale and background to the various proposals. In particular our MP is like ourselves concerned with any proposed merger that would burden Basildon Borough Council tax payers with the substantial debt of Thurrock Council.

The BDRA, has made Freedom of Information requests to Basildon Brough Council (BBC); these have enabled us to identify that BBC have not undertaken any risk and benefit analysis of their favoured option of a merger with Thurrock Council nor do they have any committed Government funding to save BBC tax payers for having to fund the £1.3 BILLION debt of Thurrock Council.

The BDRA believes that a merger with Thurrock Council will lead to Billericay Residents facing much higher Council Tax bills and much reduced services. Accordingly, we will be continuing with our campaign against this proposed merger and call on all concerned residents to join with and support our campaign.

Local Plan and excessive Development

On planning matters, he was very much aware of the challenges we face with the mass of planning applications we are seeing on Green Belt sites, and an impending new Local Plan that will propose over 27,000 houses in Basildon borough over the next 20 years, of which around 17,000 will require the release of the Green Belt. He also fully appreciates local residents' concerns over inadequate infrastructure provision.

That said, he sees the current Government's doubling down of excessive house building and making changes to planning policy as major obstacles that are as worrying as they are challenging. He has raised concerns in Parliament and encourages local people to engage in the process by objecting to both planning applications and the Local Plan via the public consultations.

Both the BDRA and BAG fully support this last point and ask residents to follow the Facebook page 'Save Billericay From Housing Developments' for the latest information."

Barrenleys Wood Scandal

You may recall the Barrenleys Wood scandal where over 60,000 tons of waste (the equivalent tonnage of the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth) was illegally dumped on ancient woodland near Outwood Farm Road between about 2012 and 2016.

The BDRA alerted the Council in 2017, but they resolutely ignored us, as we understand, they ignored others before us. We were stonewalled for a very long time before the dogged Cllr Schrader weighed in and, after further long delays from the planning department, secured enforcement action against the landowner.

In 2021 the landowner appealed and was partly successful as the Inspector judged that most of the waste had been dumped more than four years before the council issued its long-delayed enforcement notices. Remarkably, in this country, you can carry out the most appalling environmental planning breaches but avoid consequences if more than four years have passed. The landowner only had to remove a small portion of the waste, and the Council say this has happened.

We considered the matter closed until the case of Hoades Wood in Kent was brought to our attention. Hoades Wood has been very well publicised nationally despite being a less severe case than Barrenleys Wood. The MP in that area managed to pressure the Natural England Quango into paying for the waste to be removed.

We shared the details of the case with Richard Holden MP and he informs us he has taken the following steps:

- Tabled a written parliamentary question to the Secretary of State, Emma Reynolds MP, asking whether Natural England can remove the waste (as they did at Hoades Wood, Kent) and asking if any steps are being taken to prevent this happening elsewhere.
- Written to HMRC to ask if the dumping involved the evasion of potentially very large amounts of Landfill Tax

We will keep you updated, as we learn more.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

We all know that plans are afoot to ruin our environment, and lives, by increasing the local borough population by more than the current total of Billericay and Wickford combined – without any commitment to the associated requirements for schooling, doctors, dentists, transport, community policing etc. - and the BDRA/BAG continue to actively monitor, question and report on all these aspects.

However, it is probable that there is a myriad of other topics that affect the quality of life in Billericay and the BDRA would like to know what you feel we could address on behalf of us all.

Potholes would probably be high on everyone's list, but representation is an ongoing activity, and the priority of resolutions is decided by Essex Highways. They do have an online 'Tell Us' facility that should be used to report any highway concerns.

The upcoming Essex devolution exercise will bring huge changes to local politics and perhaps the Resident magazine should contain a section to help people stay abreast of the impact on Billericay. One example being the election of the first Greater Essex mayor, that is currently planned for May 2026, who will probably take on the role of the police, fire and crime commissioner.

Should you now, or in the future, encounter other issues that may affect life in Billericay, and feel that the BDRA should become involved, please let us know.

We are also interested to know whether you want our magazine to contain specific reporting sections to provide information on local projects and organisations. Should we, for example, ask the council or our MP, Richard Holden, to contribute articles of local interest.

The BDRA exists to help you and we would welcome your help in ensuring that we engage in the matters that are important to our community.

The BDRA may be contacted via email or our website as shown below and our Facebook page provides current updates.

THE RESIDENT is published by the Billericay District Residents' Association.
Vice Chair: Stephen Chapman. Magazine Coordinator: Viv Burling. Email: resident@bdra.org
BDRA website at: www.bdra.org

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Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

Further to the many housing developments planned for Billericay. The Southend Road development of 99 homes commenced a year ago. The noise, disturbance and dirt it has created is annoying. However, the destruction of local wildlife habitats has caused these poor animals to find other homes. Some have taken up residence in our gardens. The latest is an Owl who regularly sits on our fence in the evening hooting away. Much to the annoyance of the dog next door who runs up and down his garden barking! It just reminds me how little consideration Basildon Council Planning Department has for local wild life. Their main concern appears to be money and building on Billericay green belt. Very sad for the residents of Billericay who are seeing their own environments destroyed in the name of Basildon Borough Council.

Anonymous

Coach Trip to Royal Hospital Chelsea



On the 16th October a group went to The Royal Hospital Chelsea. This was the first coach trip to the venue organised by our coach ladies, which proved to be very interesting and successful. *See page 12 for future coach trips.*

OOPS...

You will have noted the beautiful photo on last month's front page of the Amanita muscaria fungi, unfortunately we forgot to credit Mick Cannon, of Photofold Camera Club, with his beautiful photo. So, apologises to Mick, hope you all enjoyed the photo.





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.

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Local Government Changes

As per our article on changes to Local Government in the October edition, Thurrock Council submitted their four council merger proposal on Friday 26th September. They proposed the following four unitary councils: -

- North Essex – Braintree, Chelmsford and Uttlesford
- East Essex – Colchester, Maldon and Tendring
- South Essex – Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford and Southend-on-Sea
- West Essex – Brentwood, Epping Forest, Harlow and Thurrock

Rochford Council has also put forward a four council merger proposal.

- Central Essex – Brentwood, Rochford, Chelmsford, Maldon
- North Essex – Braintree, Colchester, Tendring
- South Essex – Thurrock, Basildon, Castle Point, Southend
- West Essex – Uttlesford, Harlow, Epping

Essex County Council, (proposal 1 in October's Resident), Southend-on-Sea City Council, (proposal 2 in October's Resident), Thurrock Council, and Rochford District have submitted the four proposals to Government. It is anticipated that Government will run a public consultation on these proposals over the winter, before deciding which option should be implemented. The four proposals can be reviewed on **https://www.essexlgrhub.org/proposals#**

Mayoral Election

On Thursday 16th October a directly elected Mayor for Essex won cross party backing at Essex County Council cabinet meeting. The decision will unlock a multi-million-pound 30-year mayoral investment fund. If approved by Parliament the first mayoral election will take place in May 26. A directly elected Mayor would oversee a population of nearly two million people and an economy worth £50bn.

A government survey earlier this year of nearly 4,000 people in the area, found 71% were against an Essex Mayor.

We will do our best to keep you up to date on these proposals and the consultation.

Photofold CAMERA CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION

You will have noted that many of our recent editions have featured front cover photos from members of the Photofold Camera Club, which I hope have proved successful.

On the 5th September they held their 42nd Annual Exhibition at the Chantry Centre. I was lucky enough to be invited along to the event. I saw all the entries and did not envy the judge's job in trying to choose the winners from the fantastic photos entered. The front cover this month features one of my favourites that won the Hillary Cup (Best Monochrome Print). I know this is not Billericay, which we usually feature but it is a fabulous photo by a Billericay resident, of an iconic castle, that many of us will recall visiting. Myself as a child and many times since. So, I hope you will forgive my little indulgence and enjoy this photo as much as I did.

Visitors enjoyed viewing 165 printed and digital images, along with greeting cards, portrait sessions, delicious refreshments, a vintage camera quiz, and the chance to vote for their favourite print. The Billericay Arts Association (The Fold) added to the atmosphere with engaging art and craft demonstrations. Local professional photographer Daniel Bridge judged the entries, selecting winners in five categories:

- Whitear Trophy (Best Colour Print): Lynne Baldwin – Window Reflection
- Colin Bush Cup (Best Digital Image): Ken Cole – Ghosts on the Pier
- Ramsden Cup (Best Natural History Digital Image): Chris Wooldridge – Mandrill
- Helen Wiseman Trophy (Most Original Digital Image) Stephen Mold – Fragments in Flight

A record number of visitors voted for the Visitors Cup, awarded to Robert Hook for Painted Lady meets Bee Eater.

If you want to see the winning photos under the other categories above, and see why the judge had such a difficult job, follow the link: - **https://www.photofold.org.uk/exhibition-winners-2025**

Photofold looks forward to welcoming everyone to its 43rd Annual Exhibition next year. Visit www.photofold.org.ukfor details.

Viv Burling

Magazine Coordinator

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Billericay Town Twinning – Walk of Friendship in Brittany

Maggie Kingston



Janet Cosgrove (Publicity), Maggie Kingston (Treasurer) and Jeannine Watson (Chair).

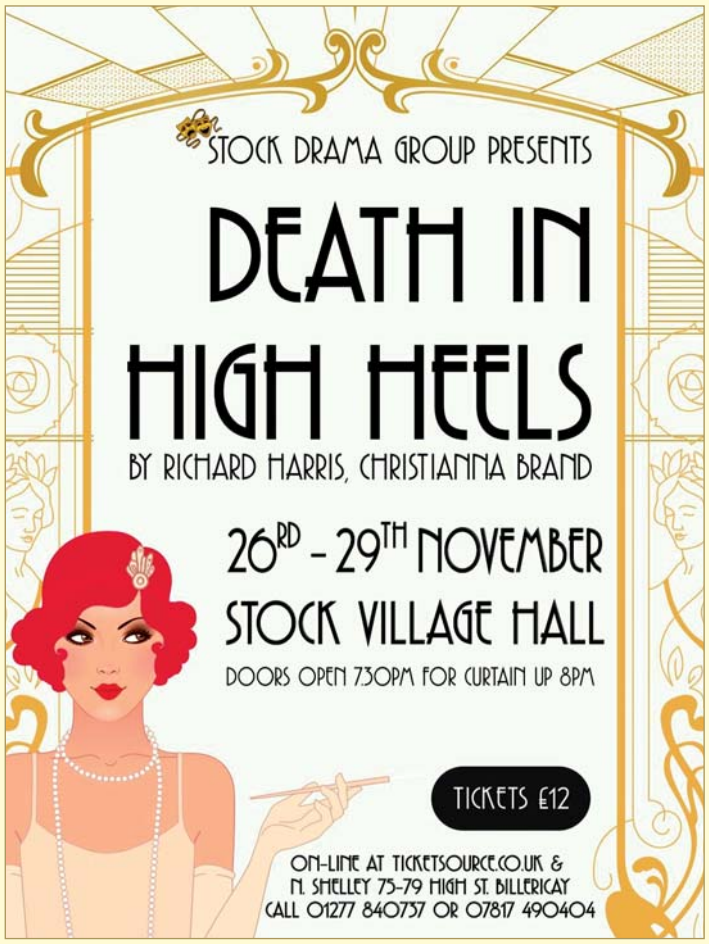
At the end of August three members of the Billericay Twinning Association spent a week in Brittany on the annual Walk of Friendship.

There were 61 of us in all – 29 from Chauvigny our twin town plus 29 from their twin towns of Geisenheim, Germany and Trino, Italy.

The Holiday Village where we stayed is situated on the coast at Le Croisic and during the week we were able to explore the whole peninsula as well as some of the nearby towns. Much of the walking followed coastal paths so included many ascents and descents. There were amazing views of the rock formations – a photographer's dream. It was a wonderful week of walking, sightseeing and convivial conversation, plus of course eating and drinking.

Much of the nearby land is covered in salt pans and we visited a salt works where our guide explained the process for producing salt by allowing it to crystallise naturally in the sun and wind. We also went to Guérande, a tourist town made famous by the salt marshes, which is surrounded by well preserved ramparts.

Too soon it was time to say goodbye for another year in the hope of seeing most of our friends again on the walk in Italy in 2026. We are also planning the visit to Billericay of a group from Chauvigny in June next year as part of our regular exchanges with the town which is located in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region in western France, not far from Poitiers. If you would like more information and/or would be interested in hosting someone please contact our Publicity Officer Janet Cosgrove on janetcosgrove7@gmail.com.









Friends of Lake Meadows BILLERICAY

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Towards the end of the last century, a group of Early Years educators, from local schools, nurseries and pre-schools, started thinking about having significant project with which to celebrate the millennium and the enhance children's education and learning. As representatives of all the organisations involved with young children in the town, Billericay Early Years Forum felt that it would be appropriate to mark the Millennium 2000 with a permanent symbol in the town that would reflect the vision and hope for the future, whilst celebrating the child, the importance of life-long learning and the care of our environment for future generations.

After a recommendation from a local librarian, we found a sculptor – John Doubleday, who was already well-known locally, as well as nationally and internationally, for his thoughtful work. The Forum worked closely with John and soon the idea for a statue developed, with a child – which could be interpreted as a girl or a boy – as the focus, surrounded by small native creatures. And so, the idea of the 'Child in the Park' was born and John was commissioned to make it.

The original gift was made possible by many, many donations from local inhabitants and organisations in Billericay and beyond, all far too numerous to name here individually, as well as grants from the Eastern Regional Arts Council and the Millennium Awards for All Lottery Fund, which paid for the accompanying educational packs.

The statue was installed in Lake Meadows Park on Saturday April 28th 2001. It was given as 'a gift, in perpetuity, from the children of the past to the children of the present and the future'. Sadly perpetuity, was not to mean 'for ever' as was originally intended, but the figure did bring over 24 years of joy to many, many families, and in fact, all age groups that use the park.



Sadly, our beloved statue was stolen, not once but twice. First on Valentine's Day 2017, after which it was mysteriously 'found' in a garden in Brentwood, before being returned to its plinth in the park. Then it was stolen again on September 1st 2024. When it became obvious the statue would not be returning, we again approached John Doubleday, who was determined that we shall not be beaten - he hopes to create something new that will give the gift back to the children.

Our local Basildon Area Committee Community Fund made an award to assist with the costs for a replacement sculpture. and John started work on it in late summer this year. We hope to install it in mid-November.

So, 'The Spirit of the Child in the Park' sculpture will be returning very soon to the small woodland garden overlooking the lake. The new sculpture is very different to the original statue, yet it captures the child's image and leads him or her upwards from beneath the ground, up into the sky above, meeting different creatures on the journey and hopefully inspiring a love of life-long learning about the importance of plants and creatures in our fragile environment.

John Cleal, the South African poet, who lived much of his life in Wales, once wrote:

"We must teach our children – to smell the earth, to taste the rain, to touch the wind, to see things grow, to hear the sunrise and the night fall, to care."



Buttsbury Primary School meets Junior parkrun

On the 28th September 434 youngsters and their relatives joined the regular Sunday morning 2k junior parkrun. This week it was a special event, acollaboration between Buttsbury School and junior parkrun to see if they could beat the national record for the number of participants at a junior parkrun. They easily achieved a new national record, what a great accomplishment. On top of that, without actually trying, they missed the world record by just 6! So, they are already looking to beat the world record next year. Ann Robinson, Buttsbury Headteacher, admitted she is a keen runner and a real advocate for parkrun. Both the 5K, where children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult, and the junior one for 4–14-year-olds. So, she didn't need any persuading to headline with the junior parkrun.

She went on to say, it was lovely to participate in an event where parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts get moving with the young children. A love of movement is wonderful and it did not matter if they walked, run, skipped, or hopped. Healthy lifestyles are so important so this is a great way to encourage a healthy start to a Sunday, do something to support the local community and get to see the participants enjoying our wonderful park. We also had 88 volunteers, which is such a rewarding activity that gets different members of the community working together for the benefit of all. We had staff, parents, trustees, members of Billericay Striders Running Club and friends of the school. Parkrun is an inclusive community event, encouraging families to take part as well as volunteer. As a treat, at the end, every child who took part got a lovely piece of cake baked by our school cook.



Nerys Aylen, Junior parkrun Event Director, said it was an amazing morning. Huge well done to all the participants and volunteers, and extra well done to the 43 personal bests that were obtained, and the 190 first timers to Lake Meadows junior parkrun. We hope that you all had a great time and that loads of the you will be inspired to come back week after week! Bravo. A special thank you to Mrs Robinson for organising and getting the pupils to the event and for the many volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you.

Spreading Joy This Christmas with Kinder Essex

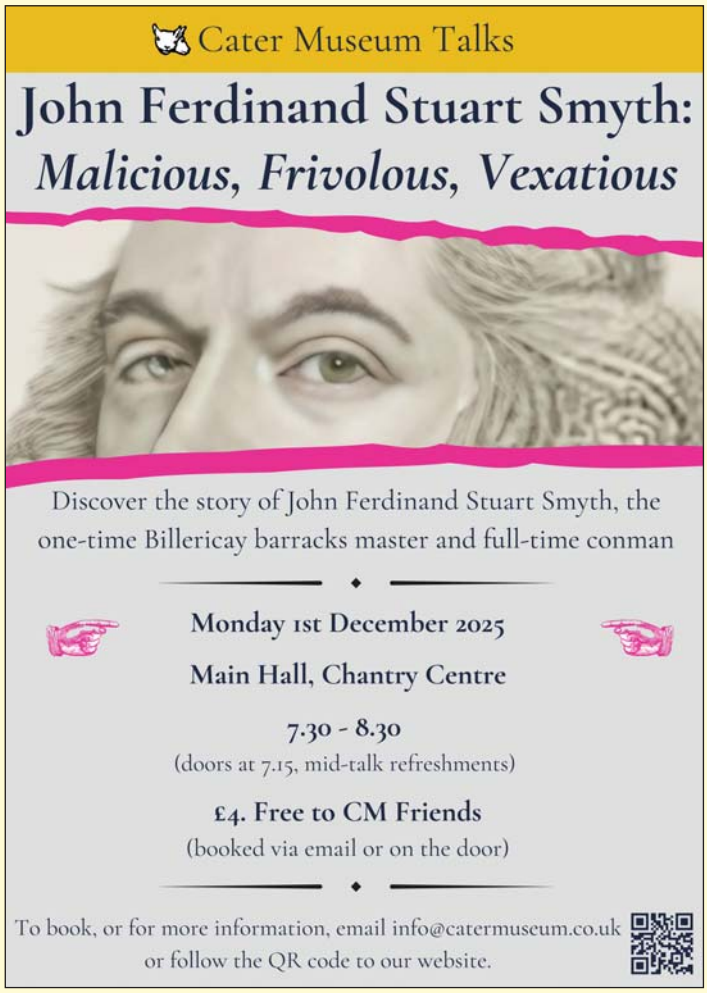
This festive season, **Kinder Essex** is partnering with local foodbanks to bring a little extra cheer to families across our community. The Send a Smile initiative aims to ensure that everyone using the foodbank at Christmas receives a personalised card and a thoughtful gift – a small gesture to show that they are seen, valued and supported.

There are lots of ways for local residents to get involved and help make this project a success. You can:

- Join a card-making workshops at Billericay Library or Human Kind Café, or drop off hand-written cards with a kind message at one of our high street collection points – Donate a gift (unwrapped please). We support families of all ages so gifts for children, young people and adults are all welcome.
- contribute gift wrap and supplies to help us prepare the presents,
- volunteer your time at our community wrapping sessions in early December, or
- simply spread the word and encourage friends, neighbours and local organisations to take part.



Every small act of kindness adds up – together, we can make this Christmas a little brighter for those who need it most. If you'd like to get involved or find out more, please contact Sarah Hawkes at **Sarah.Hawkes@ceessex.org.uk**





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Dates for your Diary!





Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings** Planning,**11th November, 25th November**. Full Council, **6th November**. 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 5th December** 8pm. Errances avec une Tigresse – le Font Quest', talk in French by Phil Drabble. All welcome 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 November 10th** International (English-Speaking) Women at War – Viv Newman. 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 Community Archive** are holding their annual Quiz Night on **Saturday 15th November** at W.I. Hall, St Edith's Lane, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 per person and tables up to 8. Further details contact 01277 650631
- **Billericay Choral Society** – Come and Sing, **Tuesdays** at 7.30pm, (term time only) at Methodist Church, Western Road, Billericay.
- **Billericay, Maldon & Witham Choral Societies and the Anglia Singers *present – The Armed Man – A Concert for Peace.* Saturday 15th November at 5.30pm.** Tickets £15.00 via website www.billericaychoral.co.uk or from Slipped Discs, Billericay High Street (cash please) or on the door (if available).
- **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 17th November** AGM+ 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 United Reform Church Festive Fayre Saturday 29th November 2025** -11.30am-2.30pm at Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street, Billericay. www.billericayurc.org.uk. For premises booking please contact by email caroloconnor51@gmail.com
- **Billericay WEA** afternoon course at Reading Rooms, High St. Billericay CM12 9AS Photography: Abstract and Minimalism -inspiring us to embrace creativity in the photos we take. WEA Guest Tutor Daniel Bridge. **Wednesday 26th November** 2-4pm Fee £16 (Refreshments included). Ref: Q00024726. Enrol www.wea.org,uk or 03003033464. Local contact Billericaybranch@wea.ac.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 10th November** - 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
- **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 22nd November** Christmas Sale at Billericay Reading Rooms, 9am-4pm **23rd November** Online Auction via Remus Facebook Page. Starts 11am; **23rd November** Curry Lunch at Nirvana Indian Restaurant, Ingatestone. £22 per person. 2pm for 2.15pm start. Booking essential; **29th November** Cake Decorating Workshop- Christmas Snowman. Billericay Reading Rooms 11am-2pm. Learn how to ice a Christmas cake with fondant icing and decorate it with a fun snowman design. Cost £45 per person. Contact Office 01277 356191; Contact https://www.remussanctuary.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 Rd Brentwood Essex CM14 4TJ. 8pm start. £15 cash on the door. **Tuesday 4th November** Mick Fosyer Quartet; **Tuesday 11th November** Adam Glasser (piano and harmonica), Jim Mullen, Andy Cleyndert, Matt Fishwick; **Tuesday 18th November** Greg Abate, John Pearce, Simon Thorpe, Alfonso Vitale. Contact 01245 420475 www.spikesplace.co.uk. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- **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 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. **28th November** Tony Harris – Featuring Margaret Thatcher – another alter-ego of Tony's.
- **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 10th November for events taking place between 10th December and 9th January

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



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

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

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.

ELY CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS GIFT AND FOOD FAIR – THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2025

Seats available – Please Pay Now

This hugely successful Christmas gift and food fair is one of East Anglia's exceptional shopping experiences. Discover perfect presents for friends and family from over one hundred boutique stalls located in the cathedral. Two supersized marquees adjacent to the cathedral will host a further hundred stalls selling gifts and festive produce. There will be plenty of food vendors on site providing hot and cold drinks.

You might like to visit Oliver Cromwell's house cost £8.00.

Cost: £33.00 which includes coach and entry to the cathedral fair.

Depart: GG 8.30am. OA 8.35am. LR 8.45am. SG 8.50am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.00pm.

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

Telephone: 01277 622342

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

Seats available – 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

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.

Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Friday 7th November

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

Usual pick up points times to be arranged.

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 January 2026.

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.