

The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association



"Help us to help you"



February 2024



Photo: Lisa Ronchetti

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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

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 / Meadow Rise – “short term cover needed”

Contact Jan Weir jimandjanweir@gmail.com

Tye Common Road Area

Contact Sheila at Sheilascottage@talktalk.net

Knightbridge Walk, Hares Close and Ricketts Drive

Contact Gordon gordon2908@me.com

Ganels Close, Ganels Road, Passingham Avenue

Contact Keith keithbailey1951@outlook.com

Area Membership Secretary for Great Burstead & South Green



Big Thank You and Farewell to Mark Hayes

Mark Hayes has resigned as Area Membership Secretary for the East Area. Mark has dedicated his free time to running the biggest magazine round for the BDRA and we'd like to extend a huge thank you to the hard work he has put in over the many years he has served us.

We'd also like to welcome and thank our new Area Membership Secretary for the East Area, Jan Weir!

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 and request our bank details that are required to enable you to make payment in this manner.

BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"



Local Plan Update

In December, the Government wrote to Basildon council in effect asking them to speed up the new Local Plan. The council has been working to a timetable of submitting a new plan for examination by mid-2026, but the implication is that they are being instructed to bring that forward by a year to mid-2025.

We have yet to hear how the council will react to this Government intervention, but it could mean that matters move much faster than we had been expecting. Whilst it would be good to get the new Local Plan in place sooner, we hope there is no knee-jerk reaction, and that proper consideration is given to putting a good plan in place that truly benefits the borough, with thorough and meaningful public engagement and consultation. There should be no short-cuts!

We will provide further updates in due course.

Planning Appeals

Sadly, despite its Green Belt status, the presence of Dormice and other issues – Basildon councillors followed officer advice and approved a 99 house estate on Southend Road, South Green.

Recent appeals regarding green belt sites allocated in the withdrawn Local Plan

- Basildon sadly lost an appeal against their refusal of 267 houses at Steeple View, Basildon.
- In happier news, it won an appeal regarding 6 houses south of Outwood Common Road, beside Norsewood. We shouldn't build near Ancient Woodland.

- We await the Inspectors decision on the 150 houses and care home at Potash Road.

Did you know?

There are over 7,000 planning permissions in our borough, easily enough for the council to protect itself at appeal with a "5-year housing supply". But developer landbanking, and small print in planning rules means most can't be included in the "5-year supply" figures.

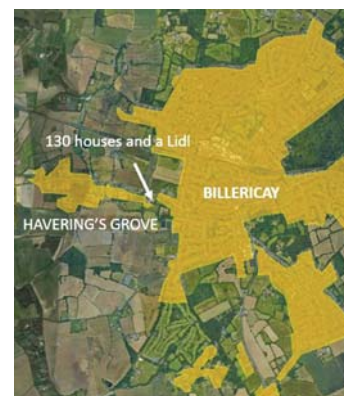
Imminent Applications

Several proposals are expected soon – including a scheme for 130 houses and a large Lidl supermarket south of London Road. This would close the green gap between Billericay and Havering's Grove, coalescing the two settlements.

A Lidl would be well used, but there's serious concern the effects of an "out-of-town" supermarket on the viability of our High Street.

Kennel Lane

We engaged with the developer, suggesting a refinement of their draft proposals, to better protect local wildlife corridors. We've yet to receive a reply.



Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

I had just got back from my first volunteer job of distributing The Resident when I received a call from Basildon Hospital. I had been told there was a 5 week wait which meant Christmas or the New Year and this was November. I was told it was a mixed ward which was OK by me then given a room with an ensuite bathroom. The care and consideration which I received throughout the treatment was absolutely marvellous and first class. We hear so much of the long waiting lists and the pressure that the NHS is under that I felt this exceptional treatment had to be acknowledged with many thanks to the excellent team of doctors, nurses and support staff of the Cardiac Unit, Basildon Hospital.

Joan Shoush

Dear Editor,

My name is George and I am writing on behalf of the Billericay Youth Town Council (BYTC). It has come to my attention that there was an inaccuracy in a recent update in The Resident. Your article suggested that no one was interested in providing youth activities. Please note that the BYTC started working with Creative Basildon on Tuesday 23 February 2023 in the hope of putting on two events for young people: a real life video games arcade and a spray painting session to educate young people on why it's not good to vandalise buildings and how to produce graffiti as art work. We were working towards this successfully until Creative Basildon wanted to spray paint on the side of the Chantry Centre instead of the proposed boards which we couldn't allow. The Town Council had also given a day's hire of the Chantry Centre free of charge for the games arcade but Creative Basildon decided to totally change the theme of the event and then stopped engaging with us when we tried to reach a compromise. Please let your readers know that the Youth Town Council are always very keen to be involved with providing activities for young people in the town, either by themselves or with help and support from other organisations.

Many thanks,

George Wood (Chairman of the BYTC)

Lions Club say thank you Billericay!

A massive Thank You from the Lions Club of Billericay to the Residents of Billericay for your kind generosity this year in supporting our annual Christmas Sleigh Collection.

We couldn't do it without you!

The generosity of Billericay residents, the Coop Queens Park and Tesco Mayflower customers has been incredible, with a record amount of £10,265 being donated. It was amazing to see so many come out to see Santa and his helpers during our tour of the streets of Billericay and in the supermarkets. The smiles, happiness and

kind words made it such a wonderful event for our team.

We also owe massive thanks to Allen Motor Group who supply our wonderfully festive decorated tow car (this is the 13th year of their support) and Lincon Batteries who power the sleigh and sound system.

In addition to Lions Members, we are lucky that we also get support from volunteers who themselves love the atmosphere that is created with such an event.

Thank you so much to everyone in Billericay who supported us. Your donations will help many local and needy causes during 2024.



OOPS...

EMAIL ADDRESS CORRECTION To anyone who tried to email us with examples of state of roads and pavements following our article in December – the correct email is resident@bdra.org

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BT's *Digital Voice* is coming!

BT is changing the way it provides its landline telephone service. The new service is known as Digital Voice, or Voice over IP (VoIP). It is already being provided to new subscribers and all existing customers will be converted by the end of 2025. According to some BT reports we will start to see the changeover occurring in our area during Spring 2024. Some areas, such as Northern Ireland and parts of the north east of England, have already been converted. BT will provide all the necessary information nearer the time. This article is to provide some early warning on what is to come.

The telephone exchanges currently used by BT, known as System X, were first introduced in the 1980's and are now increasingly costly and difficult to maintain. Developments in the Internet have mushroomed and the new service takes full advantage of the capabilities and longevity that technology now offers. Telephone numbers will not change and BT has stated that customers will incur no additional cost when transferred onto the new service. One minor change will be the need to dial the area code when making a local to local call.

Since the initial days of telephones when subscribers made a telephone call within the UK a path was set up through the network, initially via operators then via telephone exchanges, connecting the two parties for the duration of the call. We now call this a Circuit Switched call. Even if the callers weren't speaking the path remained in place until one end put the phone down. With the Internet the information to be transmitted,

whatever it may be, is broken into packets of data at a router and transmitted onto an Internet Protocol (IP) network so that it only takes capacity when there is something to be sent. This is now known as a Packet Switched service. Everyone with a broadband/Internet service has a router in the home.

In future BT will be converting the speech signals from our telephones into packets of data in our home routers and transmitting them via its IP network. These packets will then make their way over the IP network to BT's equipment where they will be processed for their remaining journey to the far end customer. Unsurprisingly the BT approach is known as Voice Over IP (VoIP). VoIP is not new, WhatsApp users, for example, will already be using one implementation.

For most the transfer will present no problems. BT assumes subscribers will generally perform the necessary changes themselves. For customers already having a BT

Smart Hub 2 router it will be a case of disconnecting the phone from its current socket and plugging into the socket on the router. For those with multiple phones working to a central base unit, often known as DECT phones, the base unit plugs into the router. For those with a broadband router provided by another operator, eg Virgin, BT will provide a new Smart Hub 2 router for the phone, and if the current phone is not co-located with the router a Digital Voice Adapter is available, the first one for free, to bridge the gap.

There will be some issues. Personal alarms, telecare devices and household burglar alarm systems which currently use the telephone network to communicate with their central alarm reporting point are unlikely to work. The suppliers of these systems should be aware of the changes and have solutions ready. Users are recommended to contact their suppliers for details.

One issue which has been attracting attention is the failure of VoIP calls,

including emergency ones, to work during a power cut as the router is mains powered. Although this is not dissimilar to the situation with many of our existing phones which also rely on the mains BT has been under pressure to offer some solutions. Its primary advice is that such calls will then need to be made using a mobile phone. Where a mobile signal cannot be guaranteed it must provide an alternative solution, one option being a 1 hour battery backup for its routers. There are areas of Billericay where many residents find a mobile signal is not guaranteed, especially on the BT/EE networks, but EE has a reputation for ignoring complaints and local social media regularly reports cases of subscribers being told they are the only ones ever to have complained. Unless a large enough number of EE/BT mobile customers identify their concerns these areas of our town are unlikely to meet the criteria for BT action, although BT will sell the battery adaptors to those who feel the need to have one.

When our turn comes BT will contact all relevant customers. By the time we are involved all of the likely issues should have been identified and solutions found. It is in BT's best interests to make the changeover as smooth as possible as eventually the old equipment will need to be switched off. Anyone who believes they have an issue should take advantage of the contacts provided to ensure their concerns are addressed. There will be humans to speak to and engineers will be available to assist where needed.

By Mike Andrews

Charity NEWS from Billericay

Churches Together Billericay Methodist Church, Western Road

On Christmas Eve over 20 community volunteers helped to decorate the Christmas tree, made the hall look festive, put up tables, chopped vegetables, etc – amazing people.

On Christmas Day we fed about 75 people of which 40 were guests, 2 meals were delivered, our drivers collected the guests and delivered them back home after watching the King's speech. What an amazing day of fellowship for us all, but especially for a lot of the folks with us who would otherwise have been on their own. Guests went home with food for the next day, gifts and smiles on their faces. We were exhausted, but elated that the day went so well. The donation from BDRA made a difference to what we were able to supply - we thank you again for this. Lorraine & Sue, on behalf of Churches Together in Billericay.



For Christmas 2023, The BDRA donated £250 to the **Churches Together** event as well as £80 to the **The Royal British Legion for Remembrance Day in November 2023**

Billericay High Street Post Office

One Stop due to close November 2024

Councillor Andrew Schrader (Councillor for Billericay East) fights to retain services in our High Street.

One Stop shop and Post Office have handed the landlord their 12-month notice. If new tenants are not found to run the business, it will close and Billericay High Street will be left without a post office.

Councillor Schrader is determined to keep a post office counter in the High Street. Maintaining access to cash and Post Office services in Billericay High Street is vital for all businesses and residents in the area, creating footfall through our town.

Post Office Ltd has since withdrawn its advert to find a business to purchase or incorporate a Post Office into their existing or proposed business in Billericay due to high interest.

Councillor Schrader said: "I am pleased to

report that the Post Office has withdrawn the advert for the Billericay Post Office opportunity, because they have received a lot of interest. This clearly bodes well. I shall keep residents updated on developments as this process continues."

In the meantime, John Baron, M.P. is hosting a meeting in the New Year with the Post Office, which I shall be attending, and the Council has also arranged for a discussion with Cash Access UK in a couple of weeks to talk about the potential for a banking hub in Billericay. More updates to come.

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ON OUR HIGH STREET

From 1st March 2023, Basildon Mind is opening a Drop-in Centre on Wednesdays from 2pm to 5pm in the Community Hub at 10 Billericay High Street.

Working together with the Billericay Street Pastors, The Drop-in Centre will inform the people of Billericay about the Basildon Mind's services; let people know that we are here to listen, help and support them and to signpost them to other services more relevant to them for their specific needs.

Get Mental Health Support in Billericay

1st March 2023 Onwards

**Every Wednesday 2pm – 5pm
in the Community Hub
10 High Street Billericay**

Our Services



Helpline No. : 01268-284130

Charity Registration No. : 1107896

Website: www.basmind.org

Blown away by the bin collection service?



Image of bag spotted on M25

How is the bin sorting and collecting going for you? Social media has been on fire with a mixture of angry and comical posts about collection times, accessing correct information and hilarious photos of recycling bags taking over Basildon! The recent stormy weather hasn't agreed with our blue and white recycling friends. If yours has gone missing, do you wonder where it has ended up? Some of our bags have probably been blown across the channel by now.

Let's start extend a warm thank you to anyone who has taken time to answer posts online and provide a service for us over the holidays.

Got a funny bin story? Write in, send us your pics and tell us.

If you need to contact Basildon Council's Customer Services by phone

- Telephone 01268 533 333

- For customers who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired: 01268 208 273
- For automated phone payments: 0330 0884 754

Call Centre Opening Hours

- Monday to Friday
Open 9.00am - 5.00pm*

**Outside of these times, you will be provided our emergency out of hours service.*



At last there are signs of Spring in the air! The white blossom of cherry plum will be out near the grasses area, looking like new snow on bare branches. Soon the gardeners will be braving the wet and cold to prepare for the warmer days ahead, hoping that a few more keen souls will join them. Often congratulated by the public as they pass on their daily or weekly walks around Lake Meadows, the Friends take a great pride in their work and enjoy the cheerful companionship of the group. Many of them, believe it or not, are now in their 70s and 80s, when most people have long-since retired, but they still enjoy turning up every Tuesday for a chat and some exercise whilst weeding or tidying the beds. There is always room for new people joining the team, bringing fresh ideas and knowledge from their own gardening experiences. If you would like to join the group, do visit them any fine Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30am or contact them via secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk

With nearly all the trees in the park leafless over the winter, it may be harder to identify them, but with the help of the new Tree Trail map and list, you should be able to discover more than fifty of them, ranging from ancient oaks to new rowans and tall wellingtonias to unusual deciduous evergreens, such as the ginkgo biloba and dawn redwood.

The king of all trees must be the oak. Did you know that an oak tree supports more life than any other native tree species in the UK. In fact, it can support over 280 different types of insect. The leaf buds and flowers provide food for caterpillars and moths and even the fallen leaves form a mould under a tree supporting different beetles and helping fungi to grow. Nooks and crannies provide homes for a wide range of insects, as well as nesting birds, whilst bats are often found roosting or searching for insects.

An oak tree can live for a thousand years or more; an old saying goes

... 300 years to grow, 300 years to live and 300 years to die. Ancient oaks are those that are over 300 years old and there are several of these in the park. Many of the old oaks were on the lines of old field boundaries, which can still be seen.

The islands in the lake are believed to have possibly been at such field boundary junctions when the lake was dug out in the late 1800s. It must have been easier to leave an old oak and its roots as an island rather than removing it, which would have taken a lot of extra manual labour. Oak trees produce some of the hardest and strongest timbers on the planet. For thousands of years, wood from oak trees has been a prized hardwood timber used, amongst other things, for boat and house building. Yet, it takes up to 150 years before an oak is ready to be used in construction. Other parts of the tree can be used to heal medical ailments, whilst acorns have also been used to make flour for bread making and



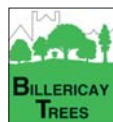
Photo: Rosie Novis

the tannin found in the bark has been used to tan leather since at least Roman times.

So next time you moan about all the acorns that an oak tree deposits each autumn in your garden or in the park, just look at one tiny acorn, hold it in the palm of your hand and remember 'from little acorns mighty oaks do grow'!



Photo: Kitty Grundy



Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW)

Vandalism to the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee Cherry Trees at South Green

Six Cherry trees were recently felled on the Green either late on the 14th November or early on the morning of the 15th. Planted by the Basildon Borough Council back in 2022 they formed a circle of trees to commemorate our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. However soon afterwards, some of them were subsequently vandalized.

The Council then replanted those still standing and replaced the trees that had been trashed in a straight line. But now further vandalism has occurred as six of their number have been felled at ground level, probably by the use of a battery operated handsaw and then left where they fell.

Strangely, only alternate trees were targeted! This criminal act was surely premeditated rather than a late-night drunken spur-of-the-moment wilful act. The police were alerted and the Village Council is busily checking local CCTV to see if there are clues to the culprits. Needless to say,

local Councillors and members of the public are appalled at this senseless and wanton destruction. If anyone has relevant information about this appalling act please discuss with the South Green Village Council (anonymity respected) and / or inform the police. Unfortunately, tree planting in Billericay and South Green both have a history of vandalism. The video grab is taken from footage recorded by the Basildon Borough Council's Biodiversity Officer.

Article by the BTW.





Who should I appoint as an attorney under a lasting power of attorney?

A lasting power of attorney (LPA) is a document that appoints attorneys to act on your behalf concerning your property and financial affairs or health and welfare if you cannot make decisions yourself.

It is imperative that you take the time to carefully pick out those individuals who you would like to appoint as your attorneys because appointing the wrong person can cause severe implications.

Who can be an attorney?

The people you appoint as your attorneys must be over 18, have mental capacity and have not been made bankrupt.

You should consider the geographical implications of whether the attorney needs to live locally to deal with your finances, or it may be that all your banking is done online, so they don't need to live near you.

Whatever your situation, you should consider whether your circumstances change in the future and where your attorneys geographically are in relation to you, which will impact how they can carry out the role as an attorney.

You do not need to appoint the same people as your attorney concerning your property, financial affairs, and health and welfare. You can appoint family or friends to be your attorneys. They do not have to have any specialist skills to carry out the role.

If you do not have any family or friends who can act, you can appoint professionals as an



attorney. The partners of Birkett Long will be happy to act as attorneys if this is the case, but as they are appointed as professional attorneys, you will be charged for their time in dealing with the management of your affairs.

How many attorneys should I have?

Usually, you can appoint up to four attorneys in the first instance to act, with up to four replacement attorneys who can step in and act if the original attorneys cannot do so.

For more information or advice please contact:

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.

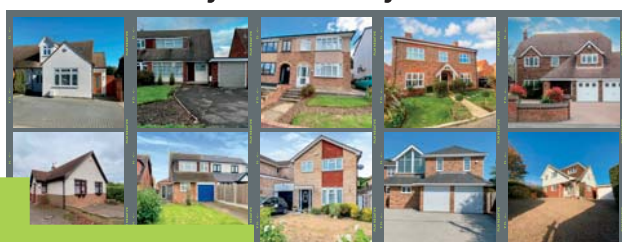
Places are limited so if you would like to book for either of these, which are held in the Reading Rooms, they would love to hear from you.

Please contact chairman@thereadingrooms.org



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- Plantar Fasciitis
- Dizziness (cervicogenic)
- Migraine and headaches



Dates for your Diary!



BDRA and Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings** Planning, **7th, 21st February, 7th March**; Health, Wellbeing and Environment **28th February**; Finance and General Planning **29th February**; Town Council **7th March**
- **BDRA Meetings: Thursday 8th February** 7.30pm at The Reading Rooms. All members welcome. Contact us on resident@bdra.org.



Clubs & Societies

- **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society** Meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, **Monday February 12th** Cogs in the Machinery of War Viv Newman 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 ljlilbey@oal.com
- **Billericay Horticultural Society** meet at the Chantry Centre from 8pm-10pm, visitors welcome £3.00. Refreshments available. **Monday 19th February** – Dr Richard Rolie (Chairman of BCCS Chelmsford Branch) Travels in Argentina Part 1 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** Local choir always welcomes new singers. No auditions needed. We sing on **Tuesdays** at 7.30pm at Methodist Church, Western

Rd. Billericay. New term began **9th January** and we're rehearsing Faure's Requiem and Rutter's Gloria for our next concert 16th March. Membership Secretary – Lorraine_douglas@sky.com or phone 07702 862266, website www.billericaychoral.co.uk

- **Billericay and District Parkinsons Support Group** We have **every Monday and Tuesday** at 11.30am at Studio360 our exercise classes; every other Tuesday Let's Sing Group meet at 2pm in Christchurch, Wickford, our Walk and Talk Group meet every Thursday at 11am at main entrance of Lake Meadows to walk a loop or two and tea at the end; Monthly meeting on **3rd Saturday of each month** at Emmanuel Hall at 2.30pm.
- **Billericay WEA** at The Reading Rooms, Billericay High Street CM12 9AS. In World Cinema with Bex Harper. 8 Wednesday sessions 2-4pm from **January 10th to March 6th** (excludes Feb 21st). Fee £67.20. Ref: 000012233. Enrol www.wea.org.uk or phone 0300 303 3464 or contact Billericay.branch@wea.ac.uk or 01277 598568
- **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 12th February** 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.mayflowermorris.com
- **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** **10th February** Spring Sale, Billericay Reading Rooms 11am -2pm **18th February** Spring Sale, Stock Village Hall, **25th February** – Online Auction via Remus Facebook Page. Starts 11am, **25th January** Curry Lunch at Nirvana Indian Restaurant, Ingatstone. £20 per person. 2pm for 2.15pm start. Booking essential. **3rd February** Virtual Open Day – via the Remus Facebook Page. 11am-1pm Contact: <https://www.remussanctuary.org/events>.

- **Spike's Place Jazz Club** Bardswell 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. **6th February** Derek Nash, Gunther Kurmayr, Dave Green, Steve Brown; **13th February** The Ted Beament Trio; **20th February** Sam Brasher, Matyas Gayer, Dave Green, Josh Morrison
- **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.
- **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** Friendly EBU affiliated 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

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 Burstard WI** meet on the **second Thursday of the month** from 2pm-4pm at Little Burstard 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 4 years+ 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 a session. 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 February for events taking place between 10th March and 9th April

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.

We want to thank our Residents that have supported us over the last year & look forward to seeing you on other trips.

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.

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2024 – GUIDED TOUR OF FAVERSHAM BREWERY WITH TWO COURSE LUNCH

PLACES AVAILABLE – PLEASE PAY NOW

The Shepherd and Neame brewery is Britain's oldest brewery. We learn on the guided tour about the ancient art of brewing and look at brewing and fermentation vessels they used. We can taste natural mineral water from the brewery's well and try some malted barley.

The eighty minute tour includes a visit to the old brewery store which features impressive displays of historic delivery vehicles, a recreated coopers' workshop, bygone pub signs and a collection of interesting memorabilia. The tour ends in the visitor centre with a tutored tasting of three of their Kentish ales. You will have the chance to visit the Brewery Shop where you can pick up a souvenir, gift or some of their favourite beers.

Our lunch will be Spitfire sausages served with Spitfire ale onion gravy, mashed potatoes and peas followed by home made bread and butter pudding and fresh cream, a drink of your choice is included

A virtual tour is available for those that would rather not do the walking tour.

Cost: Coach, Guided Tour and Lunch £54.50

Depart GG 8.30am. OA 8.35am. LR 8.45am. SG 8.50am back in Billericay approximately 5 00pm.

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

Telephone: 01277 622342

NEW FOR 2024! COACH HOLIDAY

IMPERIAL HOTEL EASTBOURNE SATURDAY 9TH MARCH – WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2024

ONLY ONE ROOM AVAILABLE (TWIN OR DOUBLE)

Insurance now £15 payable with the balance.

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 300yards from 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.

Wifi is available in the public areas. There are 14 single room available with no single supplement.

Itinerary for the holiday:

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 – At leisure

Wednesday 13th March – Hastings and Rye (optional)

Thursday 14th March – travelling home

Cost: £290.00. Deposit £55.00.

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

Please telephone to book

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

Telephone: 01277 622342

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL, A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL TRUST BLICKLING HOUSE & ESTATE NORFOLK

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

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

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

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

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

Please telephone to book

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

Telephone 01277 840560 - Ring by February the 10th

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.