

BDRA Vacant Roles

We are looking for two new people to join us as **Membership Secretaries**. If you can spare a few hours a month of your time to volunteer for us and become the main point of contact for the successful delivery of our magazine, please contact us resident@bdra.org for more information.

Relief Road Representative in Tye Common area and Road Rep for 25 houses in St Helen's Walk and Pauline Gardens

Can you spare a few hours a month delivering our magazine? Without the support of our volunteer Road Reps we would not be able to get our magazine to your doors. A Road Representative usually covers the same roads each month. A Relief Road Rep. will provide cover for any Road Rep. who might be on holiday or unwell and will cover different roads as needed. You will be responsible for delivering between 25 and 70 magazines. To apply contact Sheilascottage@talktalk.net or 01277 657776 / 07971534464

Correction

In the November issue it was inferred that the BDRA was responsible in securing Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field status for Sun Corner thus ensuring that the area would remain free from any building development.

We have subsequently been advised by the Town Council that it was solely responsible for this achievement their entering into a partnership with Essex County Council and Basildon County Council in pursuance of their aims. However, we have subsequently been advised that the Billericay Society was significantly involved in the saving of Sun Corner and an item by David Bremer, former Chairman of the Society, will be included in a future issue of the Resident which will highlight the Society's role regarding the saving of Sun Corner in which it first became involved in 1978.

BDRA NEWS



Billericay's Green Belt still under threat

The council has now ratified the timetable for the next iteration of the Local Plan, which shows a planned adoption date of 2027. The first step in that process, which will be a public consultation, will take place in the middle of next year.

However, planning matters are not standing still but it doesn't make comfortable reading. The planning inspector has upheld an appeal that will see 47 houses built in the Green Belt at Maitland Lodge, Southend Road. Another appeal for 200 houses off Kennel Lane in the Green Belt has yet to be decided.

We have also seen a planning application for a 76 room care home on Coxes Farm Road approved by local councillors despite it also being Green Belt land. We believe this is a bad decision and have asked the Leader of the Council to consider getting the application called-in for independent consideration. There are planning applications for another three care homes in Billericay, all in the Green Belt, so a worry is that a precedent may have already been set.

There are clear signs that the Green Belt is under threat. We are seeing inconsistencies in the council's planning officers recommendations, planning committee decisions, and how appeals are determined. To be blunt it's a mess, highlighting issues with the planning system both locally and nationally.

We continue to contest that the future of the Green Belt should be determined through the Local Plan process, proper public consultation and independent examination, not through ad hoc speculative planning applications as we are seeing now. That said, we strongly believe that the borough can meet its real evidence based housing need without using any of the existing Green Belt.

Our councillors need to take control of the situation now to stop huge development right across our Green Belt before the new Local Plan is adopted.

Billericay's Remembrance Sunday Parade





oined by a sea of Billericay residents, The BDRA's Chairman Keith Bailey, attended November's Remembrance Sunday Parade to lay a Wreath to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives for our country.

Well done to all the volunteers and organisers in the community who participated in this year's event.

We are all fortunate to live in such a fabulous community.



Letters...

Dear Resident Editor,

Lake Meadows history

I was pleased to read that Brian Hughes had obviously enjoyed the article about Lake Meadows in your October edition and it had rekindled memories of his childhood.

It is interesting to note that there are a number of old photographs of the outdoor swimming pool in existence, that very clearly show the high diving board, the concrete base of which remains in the local garden, where some of the pool still remains.

A deed dated Aug 8th 1935, details that the bulk of the farmland was purchased from Olive Elizabeth Connelly for £1,400 by the Council. Further pockets of land were gradually added during following years. On July 11th, 1936, the park was officially opened by Councillor Matthew Land. Olive Connelly was the daughter of John Spurling, a wealthy wharfinger, who built and lived in Lake View (attached to Hill House) in the 1920s. He gave Hill House farmhouse to his daughter for a wedding present, when she married Reginald John Connelly, the well-known writer of lyrics of popular songs, including 'Goodnight Sweetheart'. Olive sold both houses, the gardens and orchard to William Cater and his wife the same year.

Kind regards

Rosie Novis – Secretary Friends of Lake Meadows

Dear Editor,

Public seat in St. Edith's Lane

As a local resident to this area I have noticed that the public seat opposite the WI hall has been loosened from its ground rawl bolts. It is now liable to be stolen for scrap!

It would be sad to lose this valued amenity.

Can the association get it fixed?

Bob Evans

Dear BDRA,

35 flats at the former Reids site

I wanted to get in touch following your recent article on the development of 35 flats at the former Reids site.

I am a BDRA member and resident of Quilters Drive. I raised concerns about insufficient parking allocation for the new development as part of the consultation; however, we were informed by councillor Kevin Blake that it more than meets government requirements and therefore our concerns were dismissed.

It saddens me to think that the Fold could also be negatively affected by the current plans for the development.

I really hope that you bringing attention to this matter will lead to a review of the plans.

Kind regards,

Charlotte Charles



CHRISTNAS IN BILLERICAY

Caring couple offer FREE home visit haircuts and nails for OAPs this Christmas

eet Macy Vanner (Nail technician) & Matthew Spooner (Barber). This caring couple from Billericay said they felt the need to 'give back to the community' this Christmas and are kindly offering their professional services of free manicures and haircuts to anyone over 60 in Billericay.

Mobility is not a problem as the couple are able to visit at home. Please contact Macy by phone or Whatsapp on 07802 854 490 to find out more and to book.



BILLERICAY foodbank Tis' the season of giving

ooking forward to the festive season? Bring some extra joy to struggling families this _Christmas.

The Billericay Food Bank are always grateful for your food donations and have been busy making their way around our town setting up collection points, the latest can be found at The Chequers, High St, Billericay.

Donations are now also accepted at Emmanuel Church Billericay every Monday 3 – 4pm (except school & bank holidays)

Donations can also be received at St John's Church on Tuesday afternoons between 2.00-4.00pm and at Queens Park Community Church on Friday mornings between 10.00-12.00pm.

If you are out enjoying some festive shopping you can also make a donation at one of these collection points in Waitrose, Coop, Sainsburys Local, One Stop & Tyler's Estates.

For an updated list of items to donate, download the

'Billericay Food Bank App'

on IOS and Android.

For more information visit their website

billericayfoodbank.org.uk



Siblings and inheritance tax

o you love your sister, brother, and half-siblings enough to live with them and pass your estate to them? If so, then a new Bill is being proposed that may help you delay inheritance tax and plan to save inheritance tax.

With the family dynamic changing across the UK with recognition of blended families, cohabitees, stepfamilies, and the unforeseeable changes in a world that is changing socially at a rapid pace, it is more likely that siblings are multi-generational.

What is the new siblings and inheritance tax?

The proposal is to allow siblings or half-siblings who live together for a period of not less than 7 years prior to the first death to give their estate to the surviving sibling free of Inheritance Tax.

There have been a few highprofile cases recently involving siblings living together in an inherited family home and not having enough funds to pay the Inheritance Tax.

There was an argument that if they were a more distant relation, they would be able to enter a marriage or civil partnership which would provide them with the ability to pass their estate to their spouse/civil partner free of Inheritance Tax.

There are few restrictions on who you can or cannot marry, but under English Law, you cannot marry a child, parent, grandparent or grandchild, siblings and half-siblings, and your parent's siblings/half siblings or their children.



Watch this space for the second reading and debate at the House of Lords and keep reading our bulletins for more updates.

If you need any help with the subject of inheritance tax please contact

Claire Read 01245 453835 claire.read@birkettlong.co.uk

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The Holly and the lvy

raditionally holly and ivy, along with mistletoe, have been used in our homes to celebrate Christmas. In ancient times, because they stayed green all winter, they were believed to bring hidden good fairies into the house, providing protection from evil spirits.

On Thursday December 8th at 10am we shall be helping to plant 400 tree whips provided by Basildon Council, which will eventually extend the area of woodland to the north-east end of the park near the group of fir trees. The new area of woodland will eventually provide more habitats for the many different creatures that live in the park, as well as helping to fight climate change. Then on Saturday morning December 10th, our working party plans to cut back the scrub holly in the ancient woodland in the park, in order to open up the ground to sunlight and allow other plants and flowers to flourish. If anyone would like to help, then please get in touch on secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk

Christmas is coming ... and whilst there may not be as many geese or turkeys around this year, we shall be providing free mince pies, mulled wine and other nibbles and drinks to start off the Christmas festivities. The Friends of Lake Meadows invite you to Carols in the Park. Meet in the old crazy golf area on Saturday December 17th just before sunset – 3.45pm. This popular outdoor event brings together families, friends and FoLM members to share the spirit of Christmas together. With carol sheets on hand and musical accompaniment provided by Forging Men, all you need to bring are your voices and a torch or two. Donations will be appreciated to defray costs and to continue the work that we do in caring for the park.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



A MESSAGE FROM NORSEY WOOD -IT'S A GOOD YEAR FOR



opefully some 'Resident' readers joined us in Norsey Wood in October for our Fungus Foray; it was a spectacular day weatherwise, and that certainly brought out the crowds. We estimate that we had three times the normal numbers participating and apart from a bit of parking mayhem, a good time was had by all.



Fungi-wise, although the overall number of different species identified was down a little on last year, we were very pleased to discover 14 new species in the wood not seen in previous years. On the day, 32 species were identified by 'mycological maestro' Tony Boniface of the Essex Field Group. Readers may be interested to learn that this included such common names as 'Laughing Gym', 'Hen

of the Woods' and 'Dog Stinkhorn'. A full list has been published on our website for the serious fungus fans.

Speaking of our website, we've recently had a facelift; please do go and take a look if you haven't visited recently. We've also started planning lots of naturebased talks and events for 2023, so keep an eye on our events and social media channels for more information, or to be sure of following what we're up to, please join us via our membership page.

The even better news is that you can support us as you shop if you are a member of the Co-op. This year we are a part of the Co-op Local Community Fund, so please select us as your



Local Cause. More information about the fund can be found on the Co-op website.

It was marvellous to see so many people of all ages enjoying the sunshine at the foray, and all that just spending time outside has to offer.

Thank you so much for your support in 2022; we look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Find out more about the Norsey Wood Society and how to join

www.norseywoodsociety.uk



New pathway for Mill Meadows being insta fields Cuml Field near Bridge. The lat this point a the path wo vehicle bridge

asildon Borough Council have appointed H&B Groundwork Contractors Ltd to hard surface the path between the entrance to the Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve on Chaffinch Crescent to the pedestrian access points on the Southend Road.

This path runs east west across the Local Nature Reserve through the fields called Hurlocks, Hilly Field, Coles and Wantsfield. You can see the route of this path on the Mill Meadows map on the Visit page.

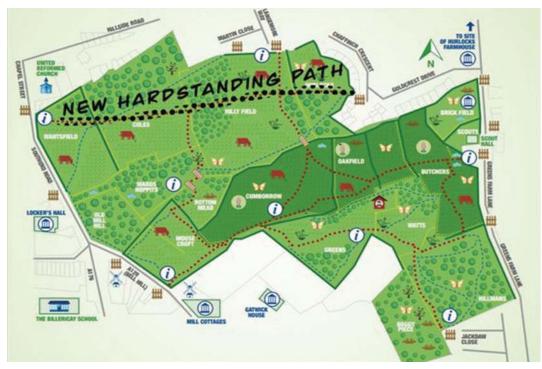
The hard surfacing will hopefully make the path easier to use, particularly during the winter months.

In addition, a new field gate is

being installed between the fields Cumborrow and Hilly Field near the Millennium Bridge. The brook will be piped at this point and spare soil from the path works will enable a vehicle bridge for maintenance

vehicles to be constructed.

Basildon Council's Countryside Services staff are aware of the broken gatepost and two damaged stiles. They plan to undertake the repairs shortly. Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve is a 90 acre site in Billericay Essex. Open to the public all year round, visitors can explore the beautiful meadows and woodlands and spot a range of wildlife.



Find out more at www.millmeadows.org.uk



Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW)

Developer – Spare that Tree!

ur mature trees throughout Billericay are as a "Green Lung" for the town, exchanging air pollution for oxygen and thus reducing respiratory problems and providing shade in hot summers.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are mainly enacted on trees that are considered to be under a "perceived threat" and can (surprisingly) cost a Local Authority thousands of pounds in searches and legal fees to implement. So understandably, our Local Authority probably only TPOs two or three trees per month across the entire 45 sq miles of our borough.

Trees on BBC land and ECC highways land (verges), Conservation Areas, Nature Reserves and Parks are also legally protected and is a very good basis for our tree stock to safely go into the future. However, non-TPO trees in a private garden can be felled without Local Authority permission; reflecting the lawful rights of a property owner.

The rejuvenation and replacement of rundown properties is

good for generally community, business and employment. What the Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW) consider needs to be addressed are the actions of those gap-site Developers who once they own a property, more often than not clear-fell all non-TPO trees and replace the existing structure with a more substantial building. Paying little regards for trees that could have been retained and unconcerned about existing trees that had added a "Street Scene" amenity value for the community. In experience, the neighbouring properties to gap-site developments can lead to border problems and short thrift from the Developer. However, although these actions may be seen as questionable, they are not unlawful.

But where an anomaly occurs is the "grey area" whereby trees

are felled prior to a Planning Application (PA) being submitted or when submitted is Refused; by which time several c.250 year old oaks have been unnecessarily felled. In the BTW's view, no trees should be felled until the PA is Approved and only then when a discussion has followed between the Local Authority and the Developer to agree on which trees can be removed and those that should be retained. To achieve this end, it would probably require a local Authority to revise its Planning regulations or for a "Private Members Bill" to be presented in Parliament. Our proactively environmentally aware Town Councillor has endorsed this view for we need to safeguard the greenness about us.

This article has been written on behalf of those residents that we have in the town who are the "natural guardians" of their local trees and ring alarm bells should a threat occur.

The BTW is a subgroup of the Billericay Town Council.

Plant a tree for 2023

The Queen's Green Canopy
tree planting initiative to mark the
Platinum Jubilee is extended to
give everyone the opportunity to
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Billericay Tree Wardens are supporting the QGC campaign

For information email billericaytreewardens@gmail.com

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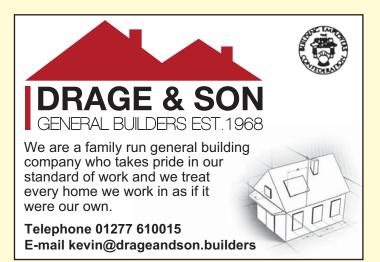


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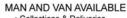


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Dates for your Diary!





- Billericay Town Council Meetings 1st December; Finance and General Purposes – 13th and 28th December, 10th January -Planning, 15th December; Town Council – 3rd January; Health, Wellbeing and Environment – 22nd November
- BDRA Meetings All members welcome. Contact us on resident@bdra.org. Next meeting:7.30pm at the Reading Rooms on Thursday 15th December



Remus Sanctuary www.remussanctury.org

11th December Carol Service at the Sanctuary. **2pm for 2.15pm start**. Only Members/ Sponsors due to lack of parking space

18th December starts at 11am Online Auction via Remus Facebook

18th December Curry Lunch at Nirvana Indian Restaurant, £20 per person. **2pm for 2.30pm start**



- Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, Monday 12th December at 8pm. Christmas in the Trenches Nick Dobson. Monday 9th January at 8pm Queens of Egypt Janet Brewer Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments 50p per person. Contact alantaylor8@btopenworld.com
- Billericay Choral Society Tuesday 13th December at 8pm A Ceremony of Carols by Britten and other festive pieces. United Reformed Church, Chapel Street CM12 9LR. Tickets £10 from www.billericaychoral.co.uk, Slipped Discs, Billericay, High Street or phone 625667

- Billericay Flower Arranging Group meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm for 8pm start in the W.I. Hall, St. Edith's Lane, Billericay. Visitors welcome at £7 each. Contact Linda Gilbey on 01277 656217 or email ljgilbey@oal.com
- Billericay Horticultural Society meet at the Chantry Centre from 8pm-10pm, visitors welcome £3.00. Refreshments available. Monday 19th December Christmas Social — Contact 43trouble@gmail.com
- Billericay Men's Shed Generally fortnightly

 Mondays
 Coffee n chat, Tuesdays
 Woodworking, Wednesdays
 Volunteer supported sessions for those with dementia and their carers. December 14th and 21st. Look forward to new members and volunteers as The Shed grows. Location Lake Meadows to the front of thr bowls building, just beyond the bowling green. Contact billericaymensshed@gmail.com or phone 07544 752686 Billericay WEA A full programme of interesting, varied and informative courses can be found at: enrolonline.wea.uk; or phone 0300 303 3464
- 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 December and 9th January 7pm. 14th Parents are given a warm and friendly welcome in a safe environment. Contact Lyn on 07387805406 or e-mail lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk
- Norsey Wood Society The next meeting will be held on Monday 16th January at 7.45pm at The Fold, 72 Laindon Rd, Billericay CM12 9LD (car park behind Reids) AGM followed by Josh Childs (Basildon Borough Council Biodiversity Officer) Achievements and Future Priorities
- 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.
- Stock Brook Ladies Probus Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to listen to a speaker and take lunch together at Stock Brook Manor. All are welcome. Please contact stockbrookladiesprobus@talktalk.net for more details.

 Little Burstead Village Hall Christmas Bazaar Saturday 3rd December at 9.30am - 2pm At Laindon Common Road CM12 9TJ / Little Burstead.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 WI (Billericay) 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



- Billericay Striders 10K Road Race. This annual event will be held on 6th November 2022.
- 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 on Mondays 8pm-9.30pm and Thursdays 10am-12pm for Men 50+ and Mondays 7pm-8pm for Ladies 40+ £5 per session. E-mail Bill at btfcwf@gmail.com

Want to include your event in the next issue? Please email resident@bdra.org with 'event' in subject line.

Deadline for the next issue is 10th December for events taking place between 10th January and 10 February 2023.

Billericay District Residents' Association COACH TRIPS



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:

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.

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS AT HATFIELD PARK, A BRAND NEW AFTER DARK ILLUMINATED

THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2023 – AN EAST ANGLIAN PANORAMA TOUR INCLUDING MORNING COFFEE AND TWO COURSE LUNCH * NEW FOR 2023 – SEATS STILL AVAILABLE *

Join us to explore slumbering villages and pastoral science immortalised by Constable and Gainsborough. With morning coffee & a two course lunch included this is a super day out in the valley home of artists and weavers. Meet the Blue Badge Guide in Long Melford at 10.30am for morning refreshments before our coach tour of beautiful rolling East Anglian landscapes dotted with quintessentially English thatched villages and the great cloth towns of mediaeval Suffolk including Clare and Cavendish each as pretty as a picture postcard. Back to Long Melford for a two-course lunch. Choose from a selection of dishes and desserts, including gluten free and vegetarian options over morning coffee. After lunch stretch your legs with a little free time to explore the long high street of this engaging Suffolk village. Long Melford has one of the richest of the East Anglia wool churches - there's time to take a look. To round off a great day out we visit Lavenham. Looming above the horizon the tower of St Peter and St Paul heralds our arrival in this immaculately kept town of crooked and timbered weavers' cottages. Enjoy a gentle walking tour and some free time to browse and buy afternoon refreshments before heading for home at 4.45pm.

Mains: Beef Lasagne served with garlic bread and salad / Sausage and Mash served with peas & onion gravy / Mushroom Pie served with chips & gravy

Desserts: Apple Crumble served with custard / Chocolate Fudge Cake / Ice Cream Teas/coffees will be served after the meal

Cost: Coach, Blue Badge Guide & 2 Course Lunch £52.00 **Depart:** GG 8.40am. OA 8.45am. LR 8.55am. SG 9.00am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

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

THURSDAY 30^{TH} MARCH 2023 – IPSWICH, FOLLOWED BY AN INVITATION TO VIEW EARSHAM HALL, BUNGAY \star FULL AFTERNOON TEA INCLUDED \star

Our day begins in Ipswich and it is market day, you will have free time to explore before we journey on to Earsham Hall. We will be going behind the closed doors of "stately" home Earsham Hall, where the owner of of the property will be our tour guide and will go to great lengths, to explain the history of the house. Earsham Hall is one of finest country mansion houses in Norfolk. It has a rich and varied history dating back to the 15th century a large Queen Anne house with medieval origins. From 1948 until 1973 it was let as a Boarding and Day school for boys. In 1973 the financial and political pressure was too great and the school closed down. The Hall was put on the market and sold by auction in 1973, and sadly fell in a state of disrepair, finally bought by the Derham family in 1976. Rupert Derham purchased the Hall in 1991 at just 22. Today running it with his wife Annabel and shared with their children Oliver and Sophie. The Hall itself is also home to the extended Derham family and incorporates three generations under one roof. As well as being a family home, there are a variety of businesses, including an antique furniture showroom to view. We will enjoy a full afternoon tea before travelling home.

Cost: Coach, Guided Tour and Afternoon Tea £43.00. **Depart:** GG 08.15am. OA 08.20am. LR 08.30am. SG 08.35am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Tuesday 13th December

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

THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2023 – RYE ON MARKET DAY WITH FISH AND CHIPS AT THE PILOT INN Join us for one of our most popular trips

Rye is one of the most picturesque towns in England with its cobbled streets and Tudor, Stuart and Georgian houses. There are many interesting shops to browse and plenty of restaurants to get a snack or light lunch. The market has a wide variety of stall where you can pick up a bargain. We end the day at the Pilot Inn in Dungeness a short drive from Rye. The meal includes fish chips and peas with bread butter and tea or coffee.

Cost: £30.50 includes coach and fish & chip meal. Depart: GG 8.15am. OA 8.20am. LR 8.30am. SG 8.35am. Back in Billericay approximately 7.30pm.

Please telephone to book after 9am on Friday 16th December

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 seats, however if we are unable to resell your seats you are liable for payment. The terms and conditions which apply to BDRA coach trips can be found at www.bdra.org

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