

The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association



"Help us to help you"



March 2023

Billericay Rocks

See page 4

Photo: Sabine Wright of Billericay Rocks

Annual subscription cost £3 per 10 issues. To subscribe email resident@bdra.org

Visit the BDRA Website at: www.bdra.org

Thanks and Welcome to retiring and new Road Reps

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the following amazing people who will be retiring from us this year; Peter Sharp, Janet Clements (served us for 12 years) and Hazel De'Ath have all been supporting the BDRA in the Queens Park area for many years. Also, Judith Fogwill and Jens McNally after many years delivering for us in the Tye Common Road area. David Rogers and Val Smith, who served East Area for many years.

And a very warm welcome to Jenny Gidley, Nina Shad and Jane Grogan as new Road Reps who have joined us this year!

BDRA Vacant Roles

Treasurer

We are looking for someone to join us as a Treasurer to manage day to day management of all BDRA financial matters including invoicing and monthly financial report for the Exco meeting and year end financial reports for the AGM.

For further information please contact Trevor Leach trev.BDRA@outlook.com

Membership Secretaries.

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.

Contact Sheilascottage@talktalk.net or 01277 657776 / 07971534464

NEW VOLUNTEER ROAD REPS URGENTLY NEEDED

Can you spare a few hours a month delivering our magazine to your neighbourhood? This volunteer role would suit anyone who works from home, part timers or retirees who want to give something back to the community. 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.

Tye Common area

Contact Sheilascottage@talktalk.net or 01277 657776 / 07971534464

Queens Park area – Rosebay Avenue, Cornflower Gardens and Tavistock Drive

Contact paul.a.farrow@btinternet.com or call 01277625126

Balmoral Close, James Square, Outwood Farm Close, Outwood Farm Road

Contact Mark markhayes001@sky.com

Lower Southend Road (south of Outwood Common Road)

Contact Keith keithbailey1951@outlook.com

BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"



A number of issues were debated at the Joint Area Committee meeting held on 9 January, the most important being the establishing of a Focus Group by Basildon Council to consider all aspects of the Local Plan and arrangements were made for representation from the BDRA.

Planning applications were considered, most especially those which appeared in contravention of building regulations and objections were agreed for transmission to Basildon Council. The issue of vehicles travelling in excess of local speed limits was also of concern and Rosebay Avenue was mentioned where a fatality had occurred in 2022. The introduction of additional speed cameras was suggested to enforce a request for a 20mph zone by the Town Council in the area of the School.

During 2023, the BDRA will conduct a survey of the High Street and residents' views will be sought via a questionnaire, details of which will appear in this magazine.

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Letters...

Dear Letters' Editor,

I was dismayed to read of the rejection of the appeals against the Green Belt housing developments in Billericay. With another 247 homes that's another 247 car owners (at least) trying to park in Waitrose on Saturdays, standing on trains up to London, and vying for non-existent places at schools, surgeries and dentists. The probable rejection of a further two Green Belt appeals means another 350 to come in the near future. And let's not be kidded; these homes will NOT be affordable homes for the young, not when 'affordable' is defined as being 80% of the price of the local average home. They will all be way beyond what any new young couple can reasonably afford. Why aren't brownfield sites developed FIRST (look around; there are plenty of them)? When will the people of Billericay wake up to what is really going on? Why do local and national governments think they will gain any currency among the people by making life less pleasant, less joyful, and less gratifying?

I would urge ALL residents to add their written support in favour of the rejection of the two outstanding (and future) appeals. Your voice does count (and so will your vote).

Regards

Julian Whybra

Support St. Luke's Hospice this winter

St. Luke's Hospice has highlighted the impact of the cost of living crisis as it appeals for donations during a challenging winter.

The charity, which provides compassionate palliative and end of life care, is affected by financial challenges due to the cost of living crisis. Compared to 2021-22, this year the Hospice has experienced increased costs of £720 per day. This equates to an increase of over £260,000 over the course of a year.

Hospice isn't immune to the impact of the cost of living crisis, but we are committed to continuing support for our patients and their families through these difficult times, as we have done for over 31 years. We are hugely grateful to anyone who is able to donate, particularly in these challenging times."

Eileen Marshall, CEO of St. Luke's Hospice, said: "St. Luke's

Your donations will help St. Luke's Hospice continue to

provide care for people living in Basildon and Thurrock who have recently been diagnosed or are living with a life-challenging or life-limiting illness.

You can donate today by calling the Fundraising team on 01268 524 973 or visit the charity's website www.stlukeshospice.com/winter-appeal



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Billericay Rocks

If you go down to the woods today you're sure for a big surprise. Actually, a small rocky one.

You are very likely to have found one of the stoney creations by a group of creatives who call themselves Billericay Rocks.

The group can be found on facebook and its members share photos of their rock art (painted rocks in all shapes and sizes) decorated with little messages and art.

The group was started in 2018 by Ginette Hardy after she found a rock on a day trip to

Aldeburgh. She felt so happy to find the rock, and couldn't believe something so small could make her feel so good. When she got home, she created Billericay Rocks.

Member numbers have reached over 900. Well done to this group for encouraging our little people to visit our amazing outdoor spaces, explore and enjoy one of our town's most cherished nature spots. I for one become a child again when I find one of them!



Photo: Sabine Wright of Billericay Rocks

New kind of Café for Billericay

Café & Community Space
Opening this Summer
Because we're Better Together

TOGETHER WE CAN
human kind
BILLERICAY, ESSEX

Human Kind is a new Billericay based charity, and soon to be not-for-profit kindness café, opening this summer at 111 High Street.

The aim is to help combat loneliness and social isolation and to connect the community by providing a safe and welcoming space for all.

Human Kind café currently hold weekly community sessions every Wednesdays from 10am to Midday in the Reading Rooms, and offer a warm and friendly welcome to all for activities, games and arts and crafts. Equally, should you merely wish to sit and enjoy the company of others around you,

there is no pressure to join in. All are welcome!

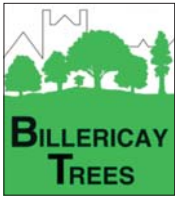
The kindness Café which will be run by the community, for the community will serve healthy plant-based meals and snacks, with customers paying what they can afford.

If anyone would like to get involved they are looking for tradesman for the café fit-out, volunteers to help in the café, befrienders, gardeners and lots more.

If you would like to be part of making this a success for Billericay, please email

hello@humankindcafe.co.uk





Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW)

Grimshill Wood

In late November 2022 we had a tip-off from the Billericay Action Group (BAG) that the 9.5 acre privately owned Grimshill Wood on Green Belt was to be on the market at auction for £90,000 but subsequently went under the hammer for £152,000.

A price way below its value for residential development we are informed. The land had not been included in the now withdrawn but to be revised

Local Plan for development. The Wood borders the south-east side of the Outwood Common Road and is sandwiched between a housing

estate and farmland. The Wood is relatively young as the site's topsoil was removed ready for residential development many years ago but construction never went ahead. The existing Wood is a good example as to how a vacant plot of land left to its own devices goes through a process of ecological succession until woodland dominates from grasses, herbaceous plants, shrubs to scrub and finally to trees – Demonstrating the resilience of nature bouncing back when given a chance; natural regeneration. The BTW contacted BBC Planning and requested that the Wood be served a Woodland Order (TPO) so to safeguard its future. The good news is that our Borough Council agreed and quickly set in motion the legal TPO

protection process. We wait to see if the Wood will be looked after for its ecological value or will it be turned into an entrepreneurial business venture (paintball etc.) that if not sensitively managed could be to its ecological detriment. There are some serious examples in the area where the latter has occurred. An ideal solution is where a Wood is bought to practice woodland crafts and to improve the Wood for wildlife biodiversity with the intention to leave it in a better condition than when first acquired. We wait to see the Wood's fate. Meanwhile the Wood is contributing to the fresh air that our town's "Green Lung" provides us all with.

The BTW is a subgroup of the Billericay Town Council.



Grimshill Wood

NORSEY WOOD IN SPRING

The eagle eyed among you will have already spotted that the bluebells are coming along nicely, but what else is happening in the wood now that the days are longer and warmer? Here are three things to look out for when you visit Norsey Wood.

March sees a dense carpet of low growing plants with beautiful white flowers, sometimes tinged with pink. These are our wood anemones, which are a marker of ancient woodlands such as ours, and Norsey Wood has them in abundance.

By now, preparation for the breeding season is well underway for our resident birds and you will see them pairing up and searching for suitable nest sites. Aside from the great and blue tits, robins and dunnocks

who stay with us through the winter, you may be lucky enough to spot some of our migrant visitors, such as the Chiff-chaffs and blackcaps, which are among the first to arrive.

As the days and nights warm up and more insects become available, bats will emerge from hibernation and come out to feed. Look up and along the tree lines for them just after sunset.

www.norseywoodsociety.uk



Norsey Wood – Wood anemone in rain



The 2022 Lake Meadows Photographic Competition produced some worthy winners from both the adult and junior sections. The adult section was divided between nature photographs and general photos of the park. The winner of the nature section was Nigel Harris with 'Catch of the Day'. The winner of the General section was Lesley Goodman with 'Beauty of the Lake' and the Junior winner was Abigail Walker with 'Leaf it out'.



'Catch of the Day' by Nigel Harris



'Beauty of the Lake' by Lesley Goodman



'Leaf it out' by Abigail Walker

Congratulations to all the finalists, the winners and those highly commended.

Our thanks also to the sponsors of the competition both Billericay Rotary Club and Mayflower Rotary Club, representatives of both organisations attended the recent prize-giving at the Bowls Pavilion at the park. An exhibition of all the finalists' photographs will be held at Billericay Library throughout March.

Chairman of the Friends said 'This annual event is a great chance for budding photographers of all ages to take part. We hope to hold a photography workshop later in the year for children, to encourage more of them to have a go and take part in this year's competition, which runs from now until October 31st. We shall also be sending details to local schools, and information, along with the rules,

is on our website now at www.lakemeadows.org.uk We hope that you will be inspired to take part!

Our gardeners started work again on the gardens in early February. They have been busy tidying up and weeding after the winter and plans are in hand to celebrate the Coronation in May, with a new design for the raised bed. If anybody is newly retired or looking for some gentle gardening, whilst taking exercise and getting to know our friendly group, then do contact us through our website or better still just turn up any Tuesday morning from 9.30am and we shall be pleased to see you.

An early notification that our very popular Jazz in the Park will be taking place on the late afternoon of Saturday July 8th. So do pop that on your calendar!

MONEY MATTERS



How hard can it be to write your will?

Many of you will have seen 'DIY will kits'. At first glance making a will seems very straightforward but it is important to be aware that these kits do not provide you with specialist legal advice. They do not have the appreciation of the law surrounding wills that a specialist solicitor will have and they do not consider your individual circumstances. The 'DIY will kit' takes a one-size-fits-all approach.

Whilst opting for a cheap DIY will kit may look attractive, there are many risks: the incorrect terminology may be used, so that what actually happens under your will is not what you wanted. This can mean that people argue about your will and that your loved ones do not benefit in the way you had planned.

Professional legal advice means that all considerations are taken into account. Your will, will give you and your loved ones peace of mind knowing

that your wishes will be followed when the time comes.

Signing your will

The execution of your will is not particularly difficult, but if it is not done correctly your will could be invalid. There are strict requirements as to how a will needs to be signed and witnessed.

If done incorrectly, you could be treated as if you have no will at all and intestacy rules will be followed. These are a strict set of rules that outline who will



inherit the estate of someone who has not written a will.

It is important to have a will that is tailored specifically for you

and takes account of your individual circumstances. If you would like to prepare a will please contact one of our will specialists.

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

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Dates for your Diary!



BDRA and Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings:** Finance and General Purposes – **9th March**; Planning, **7th and 21st March**; Town Council – **23rd March**; Health, Wellbeing and Environment **11th April**
- **BDRA Meetings** All members welcome. Contact us on resident@bdra.org. Next meeting: 7.30pm at the Reading Rooms on **Thursday 9th March**



Clubs and Societies

- **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society** Meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, **Monday 13th March** – The History of Jewellery – Jason Middleton. Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments 50p per person. Contact alantaylor8@btopenworld.com
- **Billericay Choral Society Saturday 1st April** 7.30pm Elijah by Mendelssohn by Maldon and Witham Choral Societies, Organ and Soloists. Christ Church, New London Rd, Chelmsford CM2 0AW. Tickets £12 in advance from Slipped Discs, Billericay, £15 on door if available. Contact Maggie 01277 625667 www.billericaychoral.co.uk
- **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 20th March** – Roses – Yvonne Price 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. – Lake Meadows to the front of the bowls building, just beyond the bowling green. Contact billericaymensshed@gmail.com or phone 07544 752686
- **Billericay WEA Learning Circle Event** – Mill Meadows with Sue Goss. **Wednesday 22nd March** 2-4pm. Donations please – Booking Billericay.branch@wea.ac.uk or 01277 598568. Online – Who Does Billericay Think It Is? – a resident's story with Ted Woodgate, **Wednesday 29th March** 2-4.30pm Fee £15. Reference C2229678. Booking www.wea.org.uk or 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
- **Community Open Day 24th March** 10am-3pm in the Chantry Centre. Free entry. To meet organisers of Clubs and find out more about their activities. Refreshments available. Contact Lyn on 07899 818115
- **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 13th March** at 7pm Parents are given a warm and friendly welcome in a safe environment. Contact Lyn on 07387805406/01268 490045 or e-mail lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk
- **Live at Emmanuel Billy Mitchell and Bob Fox Friday 31st March.**

Contact: revpacman@btinternet.com

- **Norsey Wood Society Monday 20th March** at 7.45pm – Illustrated talk on Life Cycle of Bats by Ella Barnett at The Fold, Laindon Rd. Everyone welcome to this free event. Visit norseywoodsociety.uk, follow us on Facebook or mail norseywoodsociety1977@gmail.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. South Green Memorial Hall, CM11 2PR – 29th
- **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.
- **The Wallace Singers Spring Concert** – 'Rustle of Spring' **April 1st** at 7.30pm To be held at Anglo European School, Ingatstone CM4 0DJ. Ticket price £15 (under 14s £8) Box Office:7981030481, thewallacesingers.boxoffice@gmail.com

The WI

- **Billericay WI** meet at the WI Hall, St. Edith's Lane at 2pm on the **first and third Wednesday of each month**. Contact 01277 624255.
- **Buttsbury (Billericay) WI** meet on the **2nd Tuesday of the month** at Canon Roche Hall 8pm-10pm. New members welcome. For more details contact Jan Nash on 01277 630147
- **Little Burstead WI** meet on the **second Thursday of the month** from 2pm-4pm at Little Burstead Village Hall. Contact 01268 491396

- **South Green WI** meet on the **third Thursday of the month** at South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road. CM11 2PR. Contact 01277 652739
- **APPLE Bridge** Friendly EBU affiliated Club meets at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue on **Wednesdays** for duplicate sessions at 9.30. Sessions cost £3. Bring own refreshments. Contact 07552 753075
- **Venturers' Bridge Club** meet on Thursdays 1.15pm at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue for social bridge in a friendly environment. £4.00 per session. Contact graham@forsythe.co.uk



Fundraising Events

- **Billericay United Reform Church** are holding a Charities Tables Sale on **Saturday 25th March** 9.30am-12noon at Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street. Items for sale to raise money for local and national charities. Refreshments available. Hamelin House, St Lukes, BASIS, Christian Aid, Basildon Stroke Club, Headway, Billericay Lions, Abbeyfield, Schools Ministry in Billericay, Parkinsons, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, Joy of Learning and Hearing and Sight are some of the charities who have been invited.
- **Remus Horse Sanctuary – 18th March** Stock Quiz Night 7.30pm for 8pm start at Stock Village Hall. Contact Daphne for tickets. www.remussanctuary.org



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 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
- **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 March for events taking place between 11th March and 10th April 2023

