

The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association



"Help us to help you"



June 2023



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

Visit the BDRA Website at: www.bdra.org

Billericay Needs You!

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.

Contact Keith Bailey on 01277 295538

Road representatives

We are desperately in need of new volunteers to help us deliver 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.

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

24 houses: Lampern Mews & Lampern Crescent, Princes Close & Princess Court, Sussex Way & Sussex Court.

9 houses: Arundel Way & Arundel Close

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

Balmoral Close, James Square, Outwood Farm Close, Outwood Farm Road plus East area.

Contact Mark markhayes001@sky.com

Lower Southend Road, (south of Outwood Common Road).

Anthony Close, Lorraine Close, Post Meadow and The Redinge covering 33 houses.

Haven Rise, Kings Way, Stockwell Close.

Crays View, Langham Crescent, Maples Mead & Windmill Heights.

Contact Keith keithbailey1951@outlook.com



BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"



The Local Plan

At the time of going to press Basildon Council had not yet launched the expected public consultation on the new Local Plan. Assuming the consultation goes ahead in June we will provide further details in the July edition of The Resident.



Join us on **facebook**

The BDRA has launched a new facebook page! The page will be used to communicate our news online and to help reach out to new people in the hope of attracting more members.

Join us online visit [facebook.com <http://facebook.com>](https://www.facebook.com/bdra.org) and search for Billericay District Residents Association. Please share our page with your grandkids, children and friends, they are the future of our town!

Don't forget to pay before August

If you'd like to remain a Member of the BDRA please pay your subscription before August 2023.

The annual subscription for 2023 is £3.

How to pay:

- Continue to pay in cash to your Road Rep when they call;
- Electronic bank transfer; and
- By Standing order- set up with your bank.

If you want to pay by either of the above banking methods, please speak to your Road Rep. Alternatively if you are unable to please email resident@bdra.org when we will be happy to provide the BDRA bank details.

Failure to pay your subs by August could lead to the suspension of your magazine deliveries.

Being a volunteer led association we rely heavily on our members and advertisers to fund our magazine and our efforts to protect the interests of the residents of Billericay.

Thank you.

Billericay Reading Rooms

Seeks Volunteers

Based in the High Street, Billericay Reading Rooms is a charity formed in 1864 for the people of Billericay and is a valuable and historic asset. The building offers a well-equipped and maintained hall and conference room for hire and is run entirely by volunteers, serving the local community by offering highly competitive rates to local charities and not for profit clubs, societies and support groups.

Lettings Officer

Billericay Reading rooms is seeking an organised person who would oversee the successful lettings of the building to a variety of users. The system has recently been enhanced by the provision of an online booking system so IT skills would be useful.

Vice Chairman

We are also seeking a Volunteer, with the suitable skills and characteristics, which will support and assist the Chairman, being able to deputising when required. The Trustees meet every two months at 7.30 in the evening.

For more info visit www.thereadingrooms.org or contact the Chairman at chairman@thereadingrooms.org



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Soapbox success!

Sunday, April 30 saw Sun Corner, Billericay roaring with activity. Twenty two karts raced down London Road competing for prizes in a variety of categories, in Billericay Mayflower Rotary's Soapbox Derby 2023.

Spectators lined the road (safely behind barriers, of course) to cheer them on, while many relaxed on the field and watched the action on the big screen. There were numerous food and drink outlets as well as a bar. The entertainment provided (Funky Voices choir; Helen Arber and the Billericay Theatre artistes) was very well received. Mayflower Rotary is pleased to announce that nearly £20,000 was raised from this very popular Billericay event, all of which will be used for the

great causes that Mayflower supports. They would like to thank their very generous sponsors: Parabar Estates; Anisha Grange; Giggling Squid; Billericay Self Storage.

To find out more about Soapbox Derby or what Rotary does visit: <https://mayflowerrotary.org/about/>

Mayflower would also like to thank Billericay Rotary's Peter Greene for the splendid photographs.



Billericay Summerfest 2023

Sunday 2nd July

FREE entry to this most enjoyable Billericay community event: 11.00am - 6.00pm. The event will feature a funfair, car show, food fayre, and many attractions, not forgetting the music stage. If you'd like a stall, please go to:

<https://billericaysummerfest.com/>
You'll find a stallholder application form there



TICKET GIVEAWAY

Calling all foodies!



The 3rd annual Billericay Food & Drink Festival is back on Sunday 23rd July at Billericay Town FC in the heart of the town from 11am till 5pm.

Organisers Jodi and Abby Knight are pleased to announce that there are over 50 great local food, drink and home entertainment exhibitors providing food and drink to enjoy on the day as well as take away. Exhibitors include The Tipsy Grey cocktail bar, Crumpy's Smoke Shack, The Only Way is Gin, Wrapstars Mexican food and Andrews Caribbean Catering as well as drink sponsor The Billericay Brewing Co.

including Billericay based Amber Atkinson and a charity football match provided by Festival sponsors Stanton Hockett.

Tickets are £5 on the gate or £4.50 in advance via Eventbrite. Under 12's free.

Billericay Food & Drink Festival is giving away two family tickets to the event

To enter email Billericayfoodanddrinkfestival@gmail.com and quote 'The Resident' in subject.

There is live entertainment on the day



Town twinner's welcome French visitors to Billericay

In April Janet Cosgrove, part of Billericay Town Twinning, welcomed a group of friends from Chauvigny, near Poitiers in France.

The French group arrived at Stansted for their bi-annual visit and spent the weekend with their hosts exploring Essex.

Janet said: "We kicked off with a cultural trip to Windsor Castle on Thursday, which impressed the guests. On Friday, each host was free to entertain their guests in their own way. This included a visit to Hyde Hall, a bluebell walk or a good old fashioned pub lunch. That evening dinner was held at the De Beauvoir Arms where we were served a wonderful meal.

"On Saturday we took the train to Southend where we had a guided tour of the Prittlewell Hoard Anglo-Saxon burial at

the Central Museum – excavated in 2003. The guide spoke in English and Jeannine, our Chairman, helped translate for our guests into French. After that we of course had to have the traditional meal of fish at chips at Thomassi's and then

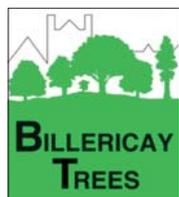
we took them down the pier, by train - a novelty for our French guests as piers like Southend's don't exist in France.

That evening saw our farewell dinner at the Reading Rooms in Billericay where we all bought a

plate of various foods. It was a most convivial evening before their return to Poitiers airport on Sunday morning. Both our visitors and members of the association thought the visit was a resounding success."

Billericay has been twinned with Chauvigny in France since 2005. Chauvigny is located in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region in western France with a population of just over 7000.

Billericay is also twinned with Billerica, Massachusetts and Indiana in the US.



Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW)

FIFTY SHADES OF GREEN A TREE WARDEN'S PERSPECTIVE!

The "danger" time for trees is when a property changes hands and the new owners are all for change. We were once asked by a property owner to check if the mature trees in their front garden were TPO designated and if the answer was in the negative then the trees would be felled! It's not the sort of research that Tree Wardens are keen to undertake!

One lady owner justified the removal of a c.200 year old healthy non-TPO oak in her front garden along the Norseway Road by an irrational list of reasons ranging from gutters becoming filled with leaves and her husband. "cannot comfortably read his newspaper in the front lounge anymore". In English law relating to trees, there is no such thing as a "A Right to Light" except for the fast growing leylandii. In our view, a professional Tree Surgeon could have recommended a trimming

regime and the "Street Scene" amenity value of the oak would have continued.

To counter this negativity, we have quite a few "Natural Guardians" in the town who take it upon themselves to either contact the BTC or the BTW when they suspect that a tree has come under a "perceived threat" unnecessarily. On various occasions trees have been saved from destruction or serious damage due to their intervention and we are thankful to them.

Most of the professional Tree Surgeons that we have met are passionate about trees as are our Basildon Council Tree Officers. There are those who claim to be Tree Surgeons but are not Accredited and are underinsured, so some research

may be required to check on their credibility. Of course, there are various legitimate reasons why some trees need to be removed and those reasons in our view should always be legitimate. The BTW are a subgroup of the BTC.





Our volunteers at Lake Meadows were busy celebrating the Coronation last month. The design for the raised badge bed in the gardens was completed by our gardeners in time for the big event, using the winter polyanthus plants but should by now be replanted with summer bedding plants. It has been a tradition to have these badge designs since Reg King, a former park keeper from 1945 until his retirement, designed and planted many during his time at the park.

On Coronation Sunday, which, by chance, was International Dawn Chorus Day, we held an early morning bird walk. Led by bird enthusiast Neil Sumner and assisted by Ben Mapp, the group met at 7am to see how many birds they could find. They were fortunate to find thirty-three different species of birds were heard singing their hearts out for the new King! Interestingly there were no nuthatches this year, who were probably busy nesting.

We also joined in The Big Help Out by holding a Spring Clean

of the Park on Bank Holiday Monday. Around twenty-five of our volunteers, armed with their marigolds and buckets, washed signs, benches, gates and fences until they were sparkling. We always welcome new volunteers to help in many different ways to care for our beautiful park!

Our next popular event is Jazz in the Park, which is to be held on Saturday July 8th from 4pm. Four different groups, including popular the Daisy Bowlers, will be playing a variety of music to entertain you. No tickets are

needed, just bring a picnic, seats or rugs and enjoy an afternoon's music by the lake. If anyone reading this feels that they could spare just a few

hours a month, we are looking for new people to join our committee. See...

www.lakemeadows.org.uk



Billericay Men's Shed Open Day – Saturday 10th June 2023 from 11.00am to 3.00pm at Lake Meadows

Pop along and join Billericay Men's Shed Open Day 10 June from 11.00am-3.00pm for a cuppa at the shed. The black weather boarded building just beyond the bowls green.



The Bluebells of Norsesy Wood

One of the best things about Spring in Norsesy Wood is, without doubt, the carpet of almost iridescent blue formed by the iconic native bluebells. They flower at a time when most trees are not yet in full leaf, and so this annual spectacle can be enjoyed laced with dappled sunshine, as the Spring warmth releases the heady aroma of the flowers and mixes it with the smell of the damp woodland floor.

Bluebells can spread fairly rapidly, but it takes 4 or 5 years for a new plant to grow from seed to a bulb large enough to flower. They are also weakened or can die if they are trampled, because the leaves can no longer feed the bulb. Something to consider the next

time you're tempted to tread on a few to get that perfect picture!

As Spring turns to Summer there will be plenty more wildflower gems to enjoy in the wood, perhaps not so spectacular, but equally precious.

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- Migraine and headaches



Dates for your Diary!



BDRA and Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings:** Planning, **13th and 27th June**; Town Council **15th June**
- **BDRA Meetings** Thursday **8th June** 7.30pm at The Reading Rooms. All members welcome. Contact us on resident@bdra.org.



Clubs and Societies

- **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society** meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, Monday 12th June – The Foundling Museum – Janette Bright Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments 50p per person. Contact alantaylor8@btopenworld.com
- **Billericay Choral Society - Saturday 1st July** 7.30pm at Emmanuel Church, Billericay CM12 9LD 'Songs for a Summer Evening' – The Sprig of Thyme by John Rutter and Folk Songs arranged by Bob Chilcott. Tickets £10 in advance (£12 on door) from Slipped Discs, High Street, Billericay 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 lligilbey@oal.com
- **Billericay Horticultural Society** meet at the Chantry Centre from 8pm-10pm, visitors welcome £3.00. Refreshments available. **Monday 19th June** – Fuchsia Husbandry and Propagation Roger Hance. 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
- **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
- **Chelmsford & District Welsh Society Annual Concert** – 'COR CODRE'E ARAN' (famous Welsh Men's choir) and Supporting Artists. **Saturday 10th June** at 7.30pm at Chelmsford Cathedral. Tickets £19 from Gwenno Pope 07724144432 or gwenno.gllwyd@gmail.com
- **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 June** 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
- **Norsey Wood Society Monday 19th June** at 7.45pm Illustrated free talk at The Fold, Laindon Rd CM12 9LD by Neil Sumner, local ornithologist and member of Essex Birdwatching Society, on 'The State of our Local Birds' norseywoodsociety.uk or norseywoodsociety1977@gmail.com for more information.
- **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 12th June** – Afternoon Tea at The Sanctuary. 2.15pm start. £25 per head. Booking essential. **25th May** Online Auction via Remus Facebook Page. Starts 11am; **25th June** Curry Lunch at Nirvana Indian Restaurant, Ingatestone. £20 per head. 2pm for 2.15 start. **2nd July** Open Day and Fun Dog Show at Sanctuary 1pm-4pm **9th July** Summer Sale at Stock Village Hall 11am-2pm Contact https://www.remussanctuary.org/events.
- **Spike's Place Jazz Club** – Bardswell Social Club, Weald Rd Brentwood CM14 4TJ - 8pm start. **6th June** – Matt Wates, Leon Greening, Julian Bury and Matt Skelton; **13th June** – Young Lions and Old Tigers with Derek Nash, James Alsopp, Nick Weldon and Matt Home; **20th June** – Alan Barnes, John Pearce, Paul Morgan and Matt Home. 01245 420475 www.spikesplace.co.uk
- **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.

- **Summer Fete at St Mary Magdalene Church**, Great Burstead – **Saturday 8th July 2022** – 11am to 4pm help fundraise via www.easyfundraising.org.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 Burstead WI** meet on the **second Thursday of the month** from 2pm-4pm at Little Burstead Village Hall. Contact 01268 491396
- **South Green WI** meet on the **third Thursday of the month** at South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road. CM11 2PR. Contact 01277 652739
- **APPLE Bridge** Friendly EBU affiliated Club meets at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue on **Wednesdays** for duplicate sessions at 9.30. Sessions cost £3. Bring own refreshments. Contact 07552 753075
- **Venturers' Bridge Club** meet on **Thursdays** 1.15pm at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue for social bridge in a friendly environment. £4.00 per session. Contact graham@forsythe.co.uk



Fitness and Sport

- **Billericay parkrun** Every **Saturday** 8.45am at Lake Meadows, parkrun provides a free, timed 5k run, jog or walk for all standards from 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 June for events taking place between 10th July and 9th August 2023

