

The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association



"Help us to help you"



May 2023



Photo: Hugo Burnand

Where are we now?

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Book Coach Trips for Summer 2023 PAGE 12

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

Visit the BDRA Website at: www.bdra.org

We Need You Billericay!

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

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 distributed 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 most active people and who want to give something back to the Billericay 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

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 plus – Contact Mark markhayes001@sky.com



BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"



As you will be aware the BDRA campaigned hard against the draft Local Plan which was withdrawn in 2022; our campaign took up a lot of time and resources of the Exe Committee and the Joint Area Committee. Basildon Borough Council (BBC) has started afresh with a new version, but we are only at the beginning of this process; BBC has now set up a Local Plan Residents Forum, in which the BDRA and the BAG are involved. Things have started slowly and we feel we are now have time to breath and take up campaigns on other issues that are impacting on the residents of Billericay.

We all know about the potholes that are the scourge of our roads, the poor repairs undertaken that we know will result in the same holes appearing in the same stretch of road next winter. The litter, the state of the pavements.

What exasperates and infuriates you as you walk and drive around Billericay? Are there things happening in your town that BBC and Essex County Council could do better? We would like to hear from

you to enable us to gather information and take up issues to our Councillors. If you have photos of your particular gripe so much the better.

Any contribution to our information gathering should be emailed to resident@bdra.org

LOCAL PLAN – STAND READY!

We are expecting the first public consultation for the new Local Plan to start in June and run for 8 weeks.

This is a much welcomed opportunity for local residents to tell the council what they would like to see in the new plan before Basildon Council finalises housing numbers and chooses the development sites.

The Local Plan will define our town and the borough for the period 2027 to 2042 so we owe it to ourselves and our children to speak up and make our views known.

Please look out for more information in the June edition of The Resident.

WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY PICNIC TABLE

The Billericay Society kindly donated £500 to the BDRA, when they ceased operating. We wanted to use these funds to provide something for the community, which was consistent with the Billericay Society's ethos. We asked our members for ideas and received several very good suggestions. One came from Friends

of Lake Meadows (FOLM) who advised that they were currently developing the old crazy golf area into a picnic area and suggested that we fund one of the wheelchair friendly picnic tables they were installing. This seemed the perfect use of these funds and we are currently liaising with FOLM waiting for the tables to be installed.

Letters...

Please note that if we refer to Councillors in our magazine or on our website we are referring to the elected ward Councillors on Basildon Borough Council. These are the Councillors that have ultimate say in planning applications via the planning committee and on Local Plan matters via the Cabinet or Full council. If, for any reason, we need to refer village, parish or town Councillors we will make that clear.

Dear Editor,

Basildon Council's plan to charge to empty green bins

Regarding Basildon Council's plan to charge to empty green bins. They say that this is to assist climate change. What absolute twoddle. How is it that sending lorries out twice as often as at present will help climate change!?!? Could the Council not have been HONEST and said they want more money and put another £1 on Council Tax which would not have had a detrimental effect on climate change. They say we should visit Barleylands recycling centre if we wish to get rid of green rubbish. More car journeys that we have been asked not to do. That too is not helping climate change. I have heard people say that they will put their green rubbish in black sacks. (What of the effect on landfill). I like lots of others are incensed with this proposal.

Margaret Murphy



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Ant & Dec visit Billericay Town FC!

We, Billericay Town FC, were delighted to welcome the crew of Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway to New Lodge recently.

Hosted by Jordan North the crew spend the entire day at our ground in preparation for the live show from Billericay. To cap a superb day for the local residents we had a winner for a all expenses trip to Florida for Nikki and her family. The first 200 people to arrive were given

a special wrist band and Nikki was the lucky contestant chosen randomly to correctly guess some hit songs.

A fantastic occasion putting our town firmly in the nation's spotlight via national TV coverage.



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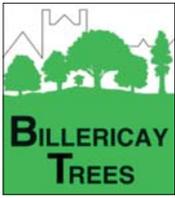
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**Defibrillator –
Further
Sessions to
be available
in May/June**



We are pleased to report that following the previous success of the Free Defibrillator training sessions, a possible TWO further sessions are proposed. These are funded by the Trustees of The Reading Rooms and are planned for May/June. Places are limited so if you would like to book for either of these, which are held in the Rooms, they would love to hear from you.

Please contact
chairman@thereadingrooms.org



Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW)

Loss of a Local Community Green and its Shady Area

On Saturday 1st April this year we were made aware that four mature trees had been felled on the green at the junction of Hillway and Hatfield Drive in East Ward. A shady green area with a high “Street Scene” amenity aspect had lost its community value to the local residents.

Research indicates that it was a leftover piece of land from the Taylor Wimpey estate development, built many years ago, and had been recently put up for auction. A gap-site Developer now owns the land and presumably will be submitting a Planning Application (PA) in due course for a dwelling to be constructed on the site. It is not illegal to fell non-TPO trees on private land that one owns even before submitting a PA. A change in Planning law would need to occur to prevent such a situation occurring! Enquiries are still being made by BBC Planning as there is a suggestion that the land was

“adopted” and maintained by the Essex County Council Highways and there may be a legal angle to it.

An anomaly occurs in these situations for if the PA is refused, that is a property will not be allowed to be built on the site, there is no rule saying that the Developer should replace the trees. And thus the local community and the environment lose out. It has become evident that there are quite a few other slivers of leftover development land in our town, some with mature trees worthy of retaining, that are being acquired by gap-site Developers. Their first response

is to fell any non-TPO trees, large or small, to clear the site. The BTW is of the opinion that there should be a sensible balance struck between infill house building (preferably affordable!) and the loss of our green community areas with their mature trees.

The Billericay Tree Wardens are a subgroup of the Billericay Town Council. Our Newsletters can be accessed via www.billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk website under the heading “The Town” and then follow the dropdown – *Thank you.*



BILLERICAY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MAY – THINGS TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN

If you have kept inside during the cold weather, there is now plenty to do if you haven’t fed your lawn then do so before the drier weather ensuring that if it hasn’t rained for 3 days after application to water the feed well.

This is the time to visit garden Centres and Nurseries for bedding plants and replacement for the plants that have succumbed during the winter.

We should be clear of Frosts now, so they can be planted out ensuring you water them in and if no rain falls continue to water weekly until they become established.

Hanging Baskets can also be hung out as well as your containers with tender plants and shrubs.

If you are looking for replacement plants you can pick up some at our Coffee morning and Plant sale on the 13th May in the Reading Rooms. Billericay High Street 8.30-12.00.



NORSEY WOOD BIRD WALK



On Saturday 1st April, local bird expert Neil Sumner led a small group on an early morning Bird walk round Norsey Wood. This is the first of numerous events on different subjects the Norsey Wood Society hope to organise throughout 2023.

27 species were either seen or heard, with the highlight being a Tawny Owl that had taken up residence in one of the Owl boxes, put up in the Wood this January.





Friends of Lake Meadows BILLERICAY

The Conservation Area, Lake Meadows

The park bursts into leaf and blossom as May heralds the start of summer and celebrations for the Coronation.

The conservation area is full of cow parsley, or Queen Anne's Lace as it is also known. Apart from its beauty, it is a rich food source for bees and hoverflies and provides nectar for early orange-tip butterflies; but, along with nettles, it threatens to overwhelm other wildflowers.

The parks team have already seeded the meadows around the Log Creature. Instead of the previous cultivated flowers, they have sown a native wildflower mix, which hopefully, will be more sustainable and will provide opportunities for us all to learn about our native wildflowers.

In the gardens, a special raised bed design, planted by our volunteer gardeners, will celebrate the Coronation, although planted in late May, we shall need to wait a while for the plants to burst into colour!

www.lakemeadows.org.uk



SAVE THE DATE! • SAVE THE DATE! • SAVE THE DATE! • SAVE THE DATE! • SAVE THE DATE!



"Help us to help you"

BDRA AGM 24th May 2024 at 7.30pm

We would like to remind you that we are holding our Annual General Meeting at Emmanuel Church, Laindon Rd Billericay. This is your opportunity to meet your Committee and hear about what we have been doing this year and let us know what you think we should be looking at in the year to come.



The Committee will be submitting a motion this year to make small amendments to the Constitution, which those present will vote on.

As a Member you are allowed to put forward:- • Policy Motions relating to priorities the BDRA should be focusing on • Nominations for Committee positions • Nominations for the Independent Examiner

All Motions will be voted on by those present.

Under the terms of the Constitution you are required to give a minimum of 7 days' notice of any Motion or Nomination you wish to put forward. Motions & Nominations should be forwarded to the Exe Secretary at resident@bdra.org

We would love to see all our Members and volunteers without whom the BDRA would not exist. A speaker from Essex & Herts Air ambulance has been confirmed and we look forward to hearing what he has to tell us about this marvelous charity.

Coffee and biscuits will be provided. We look forward to meeting you there!

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Dates for your Diary!



BDRA and Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings:** Finance and General Purposes – **1st June**; Planning, **2nd 16th and 30th May**; Health, Wellbeing and Environment **23rd May**.
- **BDRA Meetings** All members welcome. Contact us on resident@bdra.org. **2nd Thursday of every month**. No meeting in May.



Clubs and Societies

- **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society** meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, Monday 15th May – The London of Samuel Pepys – Richard Pusey Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments 50p per person. Contact alantaylor8@btopenworld.com
- **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 15th May** – My Adventure in Horticulture So Far... Thomas Carpenter. 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
- **Essex Wildlife Trust (Brentwood and Billericay)** The Galapagos Islands a talk about the formation, relevance to evolution theory and current conservation practises, at Shenfield

Parish Hall. 7.30pm. Members/Non Members welcome. Entry £3 donation. More details essexwt.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 **Tuesday 11th April** 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
- **Grenfell Pre-School Open Day Sunday 4th June** 10am -12 noon. Come and find out about indoor/outdoor learning through play for children aged from 2 years. Admission free. South Green Memorial Hall CM112PR www.grenfellpreschool.ik.org
- **Mill Meadows Society Thursday 27th April** at 7.45pm. AGM followed by presentation on Nevendon Washlands Nature Reserve – Jon Cranfield. Main Hall, Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, CM112AP. Non Members welcome. Website: millmeadows.org.uk, Email admin@millmeadows.org.uk
- **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 21st May** Online Auction via Remus Facebook Page. **Starts 11am; 21st May** Curry Lunch at Nirvana Indian Restaurant, Ingatstone. £20 per head. 2pm for 2.15 start. Contact <https://www.remussanctuary.org/events>. **June 4th** Open Day at the Sanctuary 1pm-4pm
- **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 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 May for events taking place between 1st and 30th June 2023

