

The Resident

Billericay District Residents' Association



"Help us to help you"



September 2023



Photo: Lisa Ronchetti

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Annual subscription cost £3 per 10 issues. To become a member email resident@bdra.org

Visit the BDRA Website at: www.bdra.org

Billericay Needs You!



BDRA VACANT ROLES

We are looking for a person to join us as a **West Area Membership Secretary.**

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 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.

EAST AREA Balmoral Close, James Square, Outwood Farm Close, Outwood Farm Road, Shakespeare Avenue, Mons Avenue, Thynne Road.

Contact Mark markhayes001@sky.com

WEST AREA Knightbridge Walk, Ricketts Drive, Hares Chase

Contact Gordon gordon2908@me.com

Editorial Assistant

We are looking for a sparky editorial assistant to support our team and work closely with the Editor to research and write content for our magazine. The role is a great opportunity for someone to gain experience. The role would suit someone who has good communication skills and is interested in pursuing a career in the media. Ideally a graduate or student. Please contact resident@bdra.org to apply.

BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"



Billericay District Residents' Association invites its volunteers to a special



Join us for an afternoon of celebratory **tea & cake** accompanied by live music from **Rumatica** to say thank you for all your hard work.

Thinking about becoming a volunteer?

Come to our event and find out more about the **BDRA**, meet the team and get involved in making a difference to the future of Billericay.

Emmanuel Church Hall,
66 - 68 Laindon Road,
Billericay CM12 9LD



**WEDNESDAY
1 NOVEMBER
2 - 4PM**



(FREE parking on site)

Please RSVP to resident@bdra.org



Trevor Anderson lives in Billericay and is co leader of Rumatica – a Rockulele Band playing a wide range of Rock, Pop, Country, Swing, Indie, Rock n Roll, Blues and Folk music. The big difference with this band is that their fees go directly to charity. *Trevor tells us more.*

How did the band start? and when?

The band started approximately 5 years ago, the original members being part of a strum along session at Rainbow Music in Barleylands. Bass player, drummer, lead player and sound engineers were recruited subsequent to the band's formation.

Whats your favourite spot in Billericay and why?

I think it has to be the Billericay Good Companions who meet at the Chantry, such a great, enthusiast and appreciative group of people who we have played for five times now.

When is your next gig?

Whilst we have a very busy period from November onwards, we currently do not have a gig until November

when we play for the Billericay Good Companions. I am actively looking all the time for opportunities.

What has been your most successful gig?

A tricky question, they are all successful in one way or another, however I would've probably go for Julia's Day run by the Stock Brook Golf Club when we played in front of around 300 people, the day itself raised over £25,000

Whats next for the band?

John Peel stage at Glastonbury, pyramid stage would be pushing our luck a bit. Seriously though, we are booked for a Dinner Dance and a wedding next year, which shows how far we have come.

How can people support you?

Recommend us to anyone they know who wants to raise funds for a good cause, plus any local businesses who would like to support us in terms of sponsorship

Rumatica are available for a variety of events

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Are we on the road to a cashless society?

Lisa Ronchetti



The move towards a cashless society has been on the cards since well before the pandemic but is it really what we want?

According to the Access to Cash report (pre 2019), up to one in five Brits could be left behind by a cashless society. Will we be kissing goodbye to coins and notes by 2026? and will a cashless society be good for everyone?

Advantages of going cashless:

Less Crime – One major pro of going cashless is a reduction in crime. Less cash = less burglaries and corruption. Cash is untraceable, so it's a useful tool for criminals. Digital currency on the other hand can be traced, tracked and shut down in a heartbeat.

An easier way to manage finances: Cashless transactions make it easier to shop and to travel – no more currency exchange headaches. Everyday management of money, for individuals and businesses will become seamless. The need to store, protect,

withdraw and deposit physical money disappears.

Safer for the world – Less physical contact in the everyday economy minimises the potential for future pandemics to spread.

Disadvantages of going cashless:

No cash means more digital and not everyone enjoys technology. Elderly people may feel uncomfortable with tech and unable to make the switch from physical



currency. Many people find that having cash in a wallet or purse is easier to manage and helps them budget and spend more sensibly. When you're not looking at a physical sum of money overspending can become a problem.

Rural locations that have poor broadband or mobile connectivity could be left out.

Cyber-crime & security issues – Whilst abandoning cash will help us reduce physical theft and fraud, for many of us, data and cybersecurity issues are a huge worry.

Traditional burglaries might be lowered but a different type of crime will be on the rise. Criminals will always find a new way to hack online security systems. Identity theft and compromised personal information are potential dangers in a cashless economy.

When you pay cashless, you leave a digital footprint, and this means you are monitored by financial institutions. Many of us feel

uneasy about our data being harvested or tracked by big businesses.

So, what would a cashless society look like? No more tuck away money for buskers or tips for manual workers.

Cashless means erasing part of who we are and our culture

Cash is part of our childhood. Putting coins into slot machines to play and win, the joys of filling piggy banks or finding a coin under your pillow when the tooth fairy comes. No more cash collections for the Church. No more car boot sales!

Is Cashless the end of our freedom? Our digital footprint is already being monitored daily by the likes of Google, financial institutions and the government so some might say we are halfway there. All our spending and movements will be tracked and traceable.

Is that what we want? What do you think? Write to us and let us know.

ALL EARS – New Service launches in Billericay!



Hearing Help Essex is a charity supporting individuals living with hearing loss across Essex. They have been running a support service to NHS hearing aid users for almost 40 years and will be offering their services to Billericay residents.

The NHS hearing aid support service will initially run once a month, at the Chantry Centre. Appointments can be booked online or by calling, emailing, or texting the Hearing Help Essex admin team. The charity will be pleased to offer this service by

home visit to those who are housebound.

All services are completely free of charge, but as a small charity working hard to support Essex residents living with hearing loss, all donations are appreciated.

Visit

www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk

or contact

info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk

phone **01245 496347** or text **07950 406173**

Apple trees in Burstead



By Paul Butterworth

Little did the Mayflower Pilgrims know, we'd still be fascinated with them in 2023. To mark the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflowers sailing of 1620, forty 'Apple Bramley' trees were planted across England in 2020, and all from a Unique tree in Nottingham.

By sheer chance John Smart of Billericay Tree Wardens managed to secure two for Billericay.

nursed back at a warden's home, & finally planted in Great Burstead's Church Yard. Christopher Martin the Mayflower Ships Governor was Church Warden here in 1611. I wonder what Martin would make of it all 403 years later.

Planted in Lake meadows, our trees adventures had just begun, twice vandalised, then

Readers recipe:

'BRAMLEY APPLE SNOW FLAKE'

Wisk up egg whites using birch twigs, pouring on top of cooked apples, a 17th century classic add a sprig of rosemary on top to resemble a snow covered tree.

POSITIVE POLICING IN BILLERICAY

This summer our police officers were busy attending events around town to build relationships with people in the community and encourage approachability to the Police. These included the library, the Billericay Summer Festival and schools.



On 19th July 2023, the Child and Young Person Police Officers for our area visited Mayflower High School. Students were able to get into the cage in the back of the police van, test their speed

against the speed gun, have the handcuffs on and use their metal detector wand.

Do you feel we need more police presence in Billericay? Write to us.





The Friends of Lake Meadows were out in force in July to ensure that Jazz in the Park was once again a great success. Thank you to all those who made generous donations to our bucket collection, those that ran the event and our sets of musicians.



In August, Proludic, the suppliers of the new play area held an event at the park. Their design of the new equipment was based upon the Friends' story of the Wizard & the Dragon and her eggs and is proving very popular. The sculptures

have also been repaired and repainted by the Friends, thanks to the generosity of Ronseal and the dedication of our volunteers.

Children have always been behind provision at the park. Post WWII, there used to be a

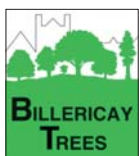
paddling pool (where the play area now stands) and swings and a slide nearer the café. The old rocking horse, now over 50 years old, will soon find a new place to graze near the café. Paddle boats were also popular for children on the lake, whilst

grown-ups could row out in a range of boats, varying from rum-tums and rowing boats to canoes.

Soon there will be a new Changing Places unit for disabled users, next to the café, and by next Spring there will be a new skateboard park for youngsters to enjoy. We are fortunate to have these new facilities to enhance the park.

If you would like to hear more about Lake Meadows and all that the Friends do to improve the park, then do come along to our AGM on Thursday September 28th at 7.45pm at Christ Church, Perry Street. Our speaker Nigel Harris, a keen local photographer and frequent award winner in our annual photography competition, who will be showing his love of Lake Meadows through his photographs. Everyone welcome!

And remember, there is still time to enter our photographic competition, which is open until October 31st – see www.lakemeadows.org.uk for details.



Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW)

Drought, Hot Weather and Sudden Branch Drop (SBD)

During the heatwave and drought of August in 2022 we received a few reports of mature trees shedding heavy branches in the Billericay area. Such extreme climatic conditions can put a tree under stress that can lead to Sudden Branch Drop (SBD) resulting in H&S issues. A mature oak at Crays Hill Park had shed a substantial branch.

As it was on Council land, BBC Planning advised that it should not be climbed whilst they get their arborist team to make it safe. In arboriculture, there is little known about the science behind what the experts call SBD. Except that it occurs in conditions of drought and sustained hot weather and can occur in heavy, long and drawn out horizontal branches that connect directly to the tree's trunk. The problem is that professional examination of trees does not necessarily reveal that a tree could be susceptible to SBD so predicting such is not an option. Branches suddenly drop without

apparent warning. SBD has been noticed to occur after rain on the branch's foliage and fruits have added weight and gusts of winds may have induced stress between branch and trunk. SBD happens to trees not necessarily subject to the damaging effect of bracket fungi. Tree species that are more susceptible to SBD are mature trees of the following species, ash, beech, cedars, oaks, poplars, sweet & horse chestnuts and willows – Veteran trees of these species especially so. The water uptake of these tree species varies considerably so additional factors must be at work to trigger the SBD. In September of 2012 there was a tragic case of a woman at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew when a branch suddenly broke away that caused her death. The following coroner's inquest that looked into the reasons for the failure concluded that the cause was probably SBD but the science of predicting it was unclear. Compared to the thousands of mature trees there are in our Borough, SBD must be considered a rare event although the changing climate may increase its occurrence.



What is a DIY divorce?

A DIY divorce is exactly as described: it is a divorce between couples without help from a solicitor. The couple, either individually or jointly, completes the paperwork without legal advice and deals directly with the court.

The recent introduction of the court's online divorce portal has made the process easier and more accessible than it was previously.

The risks of a DIY divorce

The divorce process is much more straightforward than it used to be. However, it is important to note that while it is easy for couples to access and start divorce themselves, it is still a legal process and there are still legal implications.

The court won't help you complete the online forms, which means there is the potential for mistakes. And mistakes could lead to

unintended consequences! A divorce is permanent and the way in which it is dealt with could affect you for the rest of your life. It is vitally important to get it right!

Many people believe that once they are divorced, they no longer have any financial ties to one another. However, married couples are under a duty to financially support one another and this duty does not automatically come to an end when they divorce. A separate Financial Order needs to be made to sever those ties, either by mutual consent or by the court. If a divorce is obtained without a financial clean break,



you could find yourself in difficulty at a later date.

Why do I need legal advice?

Legal advice can mean that you and your spouse are able to divorce and reach an agreement regarding the division of your assets relatively

quickly, and without incurring significant legal costs.

If you are thinking of obtaining a divorce but you are unsure about whether you need legal advice, please feel free to get in touch. We offer a free, no obligation initial 15-minute telephone call.

Lisa Collins

01245 453846

lisa.collins@birkettlong.co.uk

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Dates for your Diary!



BDRA and Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings:** Planning, **19th September, 3rd October; F&GP 19th October;** Health Well Being and Environment **10th October;** Town Council **14th September**
- **BDRA Meetings: Thursday 14th September** 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 11th September** 'Any Mother's Son' Margaret Mills 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 18th September** – Back to the Wild The History and Work of S. Essex Wildlife Hospital Sue Schwar 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** Join us in The Reading Rooms, Billericay High Street CM12 9AS from **September** for 8 part course 'Essex Heroes, Heroines and Baddies' with Margaret Mills. Enrol online Ref Q0009672, www.wea.org.uk or phone 03003033464 or contact Billericay.branch@wea.ac.uk

- **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.u
- **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 11th September** 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
- **Mayflower Morris Men** Practice for our new season **every Thursday** from **14th September** at St Mary Magdalen, High St at 7.30pm. Beginners, dancers and musicians all welcome. Tuition free. You supply the hankeys, 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 – 11th September** – Afternoon Tea at The Sanctuary. 2.15pm start. £25 per head. Booking essential. Open Day and Fun Dog Show at the Sanctuary **3rd September** 1-4pm Contact <https://www.remussanctuary.org/events>.
- **Spike's Place Jazz Club** – Bardswell Social Club, Weald Rd Brentwood CM14 4TJ - 8pm start. **5th September** Clark Tracey, Alex Clarke, Emily Masser, Graham Harvey, James Owston; **12th September** – Karen Sharpe, Colin Oxley, Simon Thorpe, Josh Morrison; **19th September** – Nigel Price, Alban Claret, Mikele Montelli, Matt Fishwick. 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.

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** 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



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 September for events taking place between 10th October and 9th November 2023

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:

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.



SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER – MORNING IN TENTERDEN – AFTERNOON ON THE “KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY”

Our coach takes us through the Kent countryside to the very attractive small market town of Tenterden. Much of the town retains its character with weather-board buildings, a beautiful High Street with a tree lined avenue and greens. There are an abundance of historic buildings including a fabulous 11th Century church, with plenty of independent shops & small cafes to enjoy lunch. We leave the town to join England's finest rural light railway, where we will enjoy our nostalgia trip weaving between Tenterden & Bodiam, enabling us to experience travel & service from a bygone age.

Cost: Coach & Railway Ticket £41.50.

Depart: GG 8.30am. OA 8.35am. LR 8.40am. SG 8.45am.

Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Tuesday 11th July

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

Telephone: 01277 840560



THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER – ELY CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS GIFT AND FOOD FAIR

**COACH FULL – PLEASE PAY NOW
ADDITIONAL DATE ADDED for this trip**

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER – ELY CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS GIFT AND FOOD FAIR (COACH 2)

**If interested please ring Kathleen on 01277 622342
as soon as possible**

This hugely successful Christmas gift and food fair is one of East Anglia's exceptional shopping experiences. Over 150 stalls will be exhibiting this year in the cathedral along with the festive food hall, offering its usual array of edible delights. Throughout the event you can enjoy regular floral presentations and seasonal cookery demonstrations. Musical entertainment will be provided by the cathedral choristers. Food and drink is available to purchase in the heated Cafe Marquee. You might like to visit Oliver Cromwell's house cost £6.50.

Cost: £23.00 which includes coach and entry to the cathedral fair.

Depart: GG 8.30am. OA 8.35am. LR 8.45am. SG 8.50am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.00pm.

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

Telephone: 01277 622342

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2023 – CRUISING INTO CHRISTMAS, INCLUDING BLUE BADGE GUIDE, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND FISH & CHIP SUPPER

We arrive at Royal Greenwich to enjoy an afternoon of Christmas shopping in the covered market & boutique style of shops with time to visit the National Maritime Museum & the Queen's House (both are free entry).

We meet our Blue Badge Tour Guide at Greenwich Pier at 3.45pm, as the sun sets, for a one hour cruise to Westminster with a fun & informative Cockney skipper's commentary. We pass the Canary Wharf all lit up like a mini-Manhattan. We sail beneath a floodlit Tower Bridge and through the glistening City & West End.

Our coach driver meets us at Westminster Pier ready for a tour of Christmas London by night. It's great fun seeing the busy shopping streets from high up in your coach.

The tour is much more than the Christmas Lights though as we'll also show you some of London's most beautifully illuminated buildings and we go off the beaten track to bring you up to date with what is new in the capital.

Cost: £58.50 All Inclusive.

Depart: GG 12.00pm. OA 12.05pm. LR 12.15pm. SG 12.20pm.

Back in Billericay approximately 8.30pm.

Please telephone to book after 9.00am on 12th October

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

Telephone: 01277 840560



NEW FOR 2024! COACH HOLIDAY IMPERIAL HOTEL EASTBOURNE SATURDAY 9TH MARCH – WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2024

INCLUDED – 5 days half board – 2 full day excursions (places to be arranged) – 1 evening half price bar (5.00pm till 9.00pm). Entertainment every evening. Usual pick up points times to be arranged.

Twin and double rooms still available!

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.

Cost: £290.00. Deposit £55.00. Optional Insurance now £15 payable with the balance. *If interested please contact Kathleen for the full details of the policy.*

Balance due 13th January 2024. ALL DEPOSITS TO BE PAID NOW PLEASE.

Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Wednesday 12th July

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 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.