Calling all residents in Hillside and Gainsborough Close

We desperately need a road rep to cover Dave Green’s round or it will disappear. Dave’s 20 years of delivering the Resident is a tribute to his commitment to the Association and his dearest wish is for someone else to take up the mantle. Please contact Mark on 01277 630170 or email: markhayes001@sky.com to help.

Looking forward the Mayflower 2020 committee have now set up their website, Facebook page and can be identified by a wonderful Logo.

Next year there will be a number of events to celebrate the historic event of 1620 and the founding of Plymouth Colony. There are those who say that the four pioneers from Billericay did not survive so our connection is a spurious one. However it is their adventuring spirit that they braved the difficulties to make a risky trip. History is full of those who have tried but not succeeded and been a beacon to others.

I especially applaud the Reading Rooms who have set up a project with 4 local schools to explore the events of 1620 and Billericay’s involvement. They will be putting together an exhibition next year which I am looking forward to going to.

Local Plan
We have still not heard when the Examination in Public will be but have an Inspector allocated for the task. Meanwhile we are aware that developers are setting up meetings and BDRA and BAG are ensuring we have a presence at the meetings to keep up to date with developments.

Planning
You may or may not be aware that our committees look at planning applications for the different areas they cover. This has been a feature of committee meetings for a number of years and BDRA has responded to plans which will impact significantly on the street scene, within the Billericay Conservation area and designated Green Belt. Members of the Executive Committee are meeting the new Head of Planning at Basildon, Christine Lyons, to make her aware of the Association, the work we do and to discuss the implications of the proposed Local Plan. This is a big agenda however underlying it is the grey area of enforcement and the resources to carry it out. I hope to update you on feedback from this meeting. It is definitely a space to watch!

Recycling
You will be aware of the change to pink sack distribution if you have had 4 packs of sacks hurled on to your drive or porch. It would seem, though I haven’t read it anywhere, that we will all have an allocation of 2 sacks per week and the only way to get anymore will be through the Council. Basildon has an average level of recycling in comparison to other areas and I wonder if their aspiration to increase it will be supported by this move?

Recycling 2 the sequel – Help needed
If you, like me, often metaphorically scratch your head, and wonder how to recycle other things you no longer have a use for, other than the things you can take to a charity shop I would be interested to hear about it. I am planning to put a recycling article in next month’s Resident so please get in touch resident@bdra.org.
2020, the 400th anniversary of the Voyage of the Mayflower with four Pilgrim Fathers from Billericay aboard, will be a special year for our town. 18 months ago Billericay Mayflower Twinning Association created a steering group from representatives from the town’s clubs and societies to coordinate a programme of some 40 commemorative events to run throughout the year but based around four key dates.

Our logo, seen here, designed especially by Acors Press in blue & yellow and black & white, will appear on all participating groups leaflets and posters of endorsed events.

The complete programme will be printed in the spring and available through The Town Crier, The Resident, and the library as well as at a launch on 20th June in the Reading Rooms. In the meantime, as events become finalized, they will be gradually revealed on the BMTA’s website: www.billericyatwinning.org.uk and through the Facebook page: Billericay Mayflower 2020.

We hope to include something for everyone – all ages and interests catered for – so that 2020 will be a truly memorable year, one our children and grandchildren will recall and one that the four Billericay Pilgrim Fathers would be proud of.

The Mayflower 2020 Committee
Who were they?

In response to your reader’s enquiry about Peter Browne and Richard Britteridge whose names appear on Mayflower Memorial boards in Plymouth, like the internet, not everything you read on ‘memorials’ can be trusted to be accurate.

In the 1920s an American identified Peter Browne, Pilgrim Father, as being Peter Browne of Outwood Common. However his researches did not go far enough because the Browne of Outwood Common was alive and well, and appearing in court in Chelmsford, in 1626 at the same time as the Mayflower Browne (who actually came from Dorking) was marrying and having children in Plymouth Colony. It’s the same story with Richard Britteridge I’m afraid. A casual remark made without any foundation in the 1960s, reproduced on the web, has resulted in several websites, including Billericay Archives, and so-called ‘memorial’ boards stating he came from Little Burstead. His origins are in fact completely unknown.

Regards

Julian Whybra

24 Martingale Road, CM11 1SG.
01277 654228

Beware of cowboy roofers

Please bring to the attention of your readers that my elderly neighbour has been talked out of £3,000 from men cold calling and terming themselves as roofers. He, like me, was told that there was a problem with the roof. I said I would get a second opinion however my neighbour was fleeced. My advice would be to say no to anyone who cold calls.

Name and address supplied.

Enforcement Needed!

Not only does pavement parking narrow access for pedestrians, what about the damage caused with no authority willing to repair. Pavement surfaces destroyed, kerbstones broken and dislodged along with water meter covers.

All hazards for young and old alike. Parcel delivery men are mostly responsible, either when arriving or leaving, driving over the pavement is something they have to do! 90% of the time the damage done is avoidable and the householder who complains is most unpopular. Enforce the law and get some money into the coffers!

Name and address supplied.

Reading about the West Billericay’s problems of two-wheel-on-pavement parking in The Resident, in the East, in Chepstow Close we regularly have the problem of four-wheel-on-pavement parking, completely blocking the pavement, by two cars and a van!

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BORA Area Committee Meetings
All members welcome to attend. If you would like to raise an issue or are interested in local matters and want to get involved we would love to see you. Next meeting dates will be on 7th of October on Weds and Thursday 19th November for West. If you would like to come along or have an issue to discuss please contact us at resident@bora.org.uk

Basildon Council Crunch Times
Mobile tip for household waste. Saturday 30th November – 9.00am-12.00pm – Radford Crescent Car Park, Billericay. Saturday 7th December – 9.00am-12.00pm David’s Walk, Edith’s Lane, Billericay.

Visit www.parkrun.org.uk/billericay or visit our event in lovely surroundings. Davids Walk, Billericay. – 9.00am-12.00pm Saturday 7th December

Billericay Horticultural Society
Meetings at The Fold, Billericay Arts Association, Laindon Road, at 8.00pm. Monday 11th November – ‘The Shakespeare Conspiracy’ with Julian Whybra.

Billericay Archeological and Historical Society
Meetings are held at The Fold, Billericay Arts Association, Laindon Road, 26th November 2019 – “Panamania Cruise Green the Panama Canal” with Tony Curtis. Contact 01277 658286

Billericay Floral Arrangement Group
Meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at South Green Memorial Hall. New members welcome. Contact Sue Hunt on 01277 627224.

Bilutts WI
Meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at Canon Roche Hall 8.00-10.00pm. New members welcome. Contact Helen 01268 541909.

Billericay Folk Dance Club
Meets every Thursday 8.00-10.00pm (except 2nd Tuesday of the month) in the WI Hall in St Edlith Eds Lane. Refusements included. If you do not need a partner. Bring flat shoes & soft drink. First night free then £3.00 per night. Contact 01277 652706.

Brentwood’s Orchestras for Young Musicians
To celebrate the festive season, BOYM is going to screen The Snowman whilst performing Howard Blake’s wonderful score. Rehearsals will be on Friday, 6.30-8.30pm. The performance will be on Saturday, 7th December at Bishop’s Hill, Brentwood CM15 6AB. Tickets £5. It is open to all young musicians who play for orchestral instrument to grade 5 standard or above. Contact boydmb@btinternet.com

The Wallace Singers
A Christmas concert will be held on Sunday 15th December at 3.00pm at the Anglo European School, Ingatestone. Tickets £7.00 (14 and under £3) includes seasonal refreshments. The programme entitled ‘Merry Christmas Everybody includes many familiar items and new ones too! Book early for this popular concert on 07981 034081.

Frances’ School of Drama
Production of Disney Aladdin on Saturday 7th December, 11.30am to 4.30pm. Ticket £10.00. Contact 07890 880001. Adults £12.00. Included in price are music by Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Tim Rice and Chad Beguelin. The Fold, 72 Laindon Road, Billericay. Contact 01277 652906.

Billericay Choral Society
Autumn concert Saturday 30th November – 7.30pm at St Magdalene Church, Church Street, Brentwood, CM11 2TR. The Choir will be singing ‘We Three Kings’ Requiem and Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Tickets £10 available from Brown Sugar/ Slipped Discs (01264 412231) or at 57-59 High Street, Billericay, from Maggie Kingston on 01277 652667/or by email from diannebowman@btinternet.com. Tickets also available at the door on the night. Parking at the venue and interval refreshments.

The Unpackaged Pantry
Every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, The Reading Rooms, Bilicracy High St. Bring your own containers to fill with loose, store-cupboard foods. See Facebook page or contact theunpackagedpantry@gmail.com

Billericay Christmas Market
Sunday 1st December 11.00am-5.00pm Santa’s Parade at 11.00am followed by 2 hours of entertainment and gift buying, 100 plus market stalls, including farmers, craft and Chalkhill. Shops all open. Dancers, singers, choirs on two special stages, children’s large frog street entertainment, hot food, mulled wine, Santa’s grotto, Punch ‘n’ Judy, free parking, free entry, cars in church.

Please contact us if you want to submit your event or anything else, please email resident@bda.org.uk

Deadline is 15th December for events between 10th December 2019 and 9th February 2020.
Ongoing Advice

Whilst IFA’s are always delighted to welcome new clients, those wanting only a “one-off” piece of advice can cause us concerns.

In the very old days advisors worked for high initial commission which was essential as with no ongoing income we were reliant on regular new “sales” to cover our running costs. If clients did not proceed with our suggestions we earned nothing so initial commission was high.

With the advent of compulsory fee charging and without doing much else, we can keep them up to date, but for us as we no longer need extra high upfront fees.

Tackling on a new client and gathering all the relevant information is around a day’s work or more depending on complexity. We need up to date information to be able to advise appropriately and correctly. We must therefore make a charge, but this can be a lot lower than commission used to be.

Once we are the ongoing intermediary providers keep us updated regularly. We know what we have recommended in the past and our computers keep us up to date, far less costly than starting from scratch every year. If a client has a query at any time we can “push buttons” and know exactly where they are financially and be able to help.

“One-off” advice is also worrying as things like pension freedoms come into force and taxes change meaning what was the right advice a year or so ago can now be completely the wrong thing to do.

For example, when annuity purchase was compulsory it was common to reduce the investment risk of pension funds automatically as retirement neared; sometimes called “life-styling”. The process was designed to prevent the policyholder suffering a large drop in funds just before buying the annuity and thus obtaining a smaller income for the rest of their life.

Under pension freedoms de-risking is probably the last thing one should do as the fund could be invested for another 20 or 30 years and thus needs a completely different investment strategy to a fund that must buy an annuity.

Without an on-going relationship we would not have the opportunity to explain the situation make appropriate changes and put things right if necessary.

To paraphrase the RSPCA “a client is for life not just a few weeks”, if your pension fund is invested in a “lifestyle” option, or even if not, you might want to speak to an IFA, regularly!

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Divorce: why not put your cards on the table?

Although honesty is the best policy when it comes to divorce proceedings, when and what you can disclose is still a much misunderstood subject.

The High Court has recently issued some further guidance that might help.

Divorce lawyers have long been concerned about the decision in the Tchenguiz & Ors v. Tchenguiz & Ors case. This was a case where the wholesale hacking of commercially sensitive documents belonging to a spouse and their business partners was roundly criticised by the Court of Appeal. The so-called Innuendo Rules have been a source of endless debate ever since. Broadly summarised, if the documents are ‘lying around’ you can help yourself to them, but if they are locked away (either physically or electronically), then you cannot.

Mrs Thum found some relevant financial documents on a flash drive in the parties’ joint safety deposit box in Zurich. She claimed that the drive was in an envelope with the password written on the front, permitting her access to the equivalent of documents left ‘lying around’.

However, her husband denied her version of events and argued that a hacker must have been employed to access the data. Very sensibly, Mrs Thum agreed to hand the flash drive over to her husband’s solicitors under the usual conditions — that any admissible and relevant documents should be immediately disclosed back by him to her. Mr Thum ignored an order from the court to disclose the documents, and then failed to turn up at court.

In the absence of the husband, the judge had little difficulty in ruling against him. The lawyers were ordered to disclose the documents despite Mr Thum’s objection.

Although Mr Thum may have had a good argument, he triggered its failure by not cooperating with the court. The argument about whether the documents had been effectively just ‘lying around’ therefore went against him.

The judge confirmed that, in those circumstances, the documents themselves were fair game.

From a court’s perspective, unless it has all of the relevant information and documentation, a judge is not necessarily going to be able to make a fair order.

If you would like more advice or information regarding this issue, our divorce and separation lawyers offer a free, no obligation 15 minute chat. I am based in our Basildon office and can be contacted on 01268 824938 or muntech.kaur@birkettlong.co.uk
It is amazing how things happen in ‘threes’! When you are waiting for a bus to turn up, along come a trio. We have been excited recently that three lucky things have come to the park.

Firstly, as you know, the park won the East of England Region Award for the Best UK Park 2019. Following that amazing news, Basildon Council has recently awarded us a grant of £3,000 towards our water station project. We have been planning for over a year to install a robust bottle-filling, water fountain and dog bowl unit near the community hut, providing easily accessible clean drinking water for park users of all ages. The grant means that we are now over halfway to finding the funds to install it and we hope to raise the remaining £2,000 or so in the coming months, so it can be installed in the New Year.

The third good news was that once again the people of Billericay have supported us through the Waitrose Community Matters Fund this September. By adding their green tokens to our box, it has enabled the Friends to receive £490, which is being spent on new garden plants and hundreds of daffodil and tulip bulbs to brighten the Spring days next year.

We have a number of volunteers who help in the park in various ways throughout the year. Our team of 20 volunteer gardeners look after all the gardens in the park, so the past weeks have been busy for them planting all those new plants. The ecology group enjoyed planting bluebell bulbs recently and the Information hut has been manned each week by our team of ladies. We also have a small group of people who help once a month on a Saturday morning at our working parties, with jobs such as general maintenance, cleaning the signs or adding bark chippings to paths and beds. So, if you could spare a couple of hours to help us keep the park looking great, do please contact us on: 07843 860135 (answerphone) or email: secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk We’d love to hear from you!

And finally, for your diaries, note that ‘Carols in the Park’, around the Christmas tree by the boat house, is on Saturday December 14th at 4.00pm. Free mulled wine & nibbles. Bring a torch!
A member of the Resident distribution team

Someone who can spare a couple of hours a month to bundle up residents and drop them off to road reps in the East of Billericay. A mileage allowance is paid. This is a vital role in the distribution chain. Please make contact if you can help. resident@bdra.org or 632390.

A member of an RMG

We have developed the concept of the Resident Monitoring Groups (RMGs) to ensure that Billericay residents are not ignored once a site for development is agreed in principle.

We assume that the Planning Inspector when he approves a site in the Local Plan will identify some conditions associated with that site and the first stage will be for the RMGs to become familiar with the site details and those conditions.

As the developers move through the planning process we would hope that the RMGs will monitor this activity and, preferably, engage directly with the developers and Basildon Council, to ensure that residents views are not ignored, that the Inspectors conditions are incorporated in any approved application and that the Council imposes its own conditions on the developers to the benefit of residents. We have already published our Four Firsts as a top level set of conditions which we believe are fundamental to any large scale development and we would hope that RMGs will introduce the next level of detail based upon local knowledge and the specific needs of our local residents.

Once Planning Applications are approved we would see the RMGs providing on the ground monitoring of the actual developments and reporting any failures to comply with the agreed conditions to Basildon Council’s Planning Enforcement team.

We recognise that the BDRA and BAG are totally dependent on volunteers and what issues get done is conditioned by the resource and skills available. This will be equally true for the RMGs. So whilst the above is a top level view of what we think could be useful it will be for the RMG volunteers to determine what actually happens. BDRA and BAG will continue to provide guidance and help as appropriate. Join us by contacting Mike Andrews via resident@bdra.org.

A member of the Editorial team

Someone who has an interest in local issues who would like to assist the Editor in the first instance and then if happy go on to take over. There are a number of contacts for articles, a thriving event page and issues which come from the committees. The present time is an exciting one to be a part of the Association’s communication arm as we become a key influencer as the Voice of the people of Billericay and District. Contact Chris Wade for a chat email: resident@bdra.org or 632390.
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Pease contact Chris at: resident@bdra.org
Key Meetings Arranged

We are pleased to report that we have secured meetings with the head of Planning and Gavin Callaghan to speak about issues in Billericay. We feel that it is important to have an ongoing relationship to ensure that these people who are part of the decision making process which impacts on us are aware of our views and the work we do on your behalf.

Follow up to an observation by a Resident

A highways issue was reported to us and the Town Council. We have referred it to Essex highways and thank the resident for bringing it to our attention. The photo below shows that tarmac laid to the rear of the shops in the high street was not extended to cover loose stones. These will fall into Western road and block the drains. On the opposite side of the road there are two rainwater drains that are blocked by stones which have been pushed into them.

Town Trail – A request from the Town Council – Walk Leaders for 2020

We have had a request from the Town Council to see if there is anyone with a good knowledge of Billericay who would be prepared to lead the very popular Town Trail Walks which are organised by the Town Council each summer. Both the guides who have done it are unable to continue. One is moving away and the other one wants to hang up his boots.

There are 4 walks each year, which take place on either a Saturday or Sunday in June, July, August and September. The walks last approx. 2 hours and start at the railway station heading up to Sun Corner and are generally well attended. Sadly without new leaders the walks will be discontinued which would be a shame in 2020 when we are hoping that additional visitors will come to the town. The contact details for anyone who can help are townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk or 01277 625732

Mayflower 2020

BDRA are represented on the Mayflower 2020 Committee and are planning to hold events in the High Street next year. The Resident will be one of the vehicles for letting people know about the events. There is still time for groups to offer events and activities during the year. The events will be near the key dates when the Mayflower sailed and arrived in America, i.e. 15th July Essex Pilgrims leave Billericay, 6th September Pilgrim Fathers leave England, 11th November Mayflower made landfall in New England, 11th December The Pilgrim Fathers found their colony at Plymouth.

Road reps

It continues to be difficult to recruit road reps to deliver the Resident, especially as the stalwarts who have been doing it for so many years feel they need to retire.

Coach Trips

Kathleen and Yvonne gave us a list of the trips they are planning for 2020. Some new ones and some old favourites.
COACH TRIPS

WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY, 2020 – “PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT” (THE MUSICAL). STARRING STRICTLY COME DANCING WINNER JOE MCFADDEN – 6.00PM PERFORMANCE CLIFFS PAVILION, SOUTHEND

Seats still available
This iconic Tony Award winning musical is the hilarious adventure of three friends who hop aboard a battered old tour bus, christened Priscilla, bound for the Lasseters Hotel Casino Resort in the Outback to put on the show of a lifetime. Their epic journey is a heart-warming story of self discovery, sassiness and acceptance.

With more glitter than ever before, this smash hit show features a dazzling array of stunning costumes, fabulous feathers and a non-stop parade of dance floor classics including, Hot Stuff, I Will Survive, It’s Raining Men, I love The Nightlife and Finally. The show will bring brightness into a February evening.

Cost: Coach and top priced ticket £42.50
Depart: GG 5.45pm. OA 5.50pm. LR 6.00pm. SG 6.05pm.
Please telephone to book after 9.00am
Yvonne Cave, 11 The Vale, Stock, Ingatestone. CM4 9PW.
Telephone: 01277 840560

THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER – ELY CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS GIFT AND FOOD FAIR
Kathleen and Yvonne are looking forward to seeing you on the day. Here is a reminder of the pick up times.

Emergency mobile for use on the day only is 07518 122647. Please put it in your contacts.

Depart: GG 8.45am. OA 8.50am. LR 9am. SG 9.05am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.00pm.
Kathleen Fox, 72 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0ND.
Telephone: 01277 622342

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER – EXPERIENCE THE DELIGHTS OF POLHILL

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 PAY NOW
Sample the delights of Kent’s best known garden centre. The centre contains a wide range of departments and an in store restaurant. Come and see all the lovely and exciting Christmas displays.

Cost: £13.00
Depart: GG 9.00am. OA 9.05am. LR 9.15am. SG 9.20am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.00pm.
Kathleen Fox, 72 Perry Street, Billericay, CM12 0ND.
Telephone: 01277 622342


FULL PLEASE PAY NOW
Goldilocks and The Three Bears marks the venues fourth consecutive Christmas Pantomime, and we have secured Dress Circle tickets. This festive extravaganza is packed with riotous comedy routines, special effects, hair raising stunts, international circus acts and an all star cast including Paul O’Grady, who rejoins Palladium favourites Julian Clary, Nigel Havers, Gary Wilmot and Paul Zerdin, alongside Matt Baker.

Cost: Coach and Theatre Ticket £54.70
Depart: GG 10.15am. OA 10.20am. LR 10.30am. SG 10.35. Back in Billericay approximately 7.00pm.
Yvonne Cave, 11 The Vale, Stock, Ingatestone. CM4 9PW.
Telephone: 01277 840560

If concession prices are quoted (ie 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.

For your information our coach organisers Kathleen and Yvonne have a mobile for use on the day of a trip only. The number is 07518 122647. Please put it in your contacts.

Receive 10 copies of the Resident, keep up to date with residents’ issues, events, useful info, advertisers offering services you may need, coach trips and area committees working on your behalf. Be part of an Association which has served residents for 92 years.

Telephone: 01277 632390 Email: resident@bdra.org

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.