

# *The Resident*

*Billericay District Residents' Association*



"Help us to help you"



**July/August 2025**

*Photo: Grey Squirrel in Norsey Wood – Laurence Berger, Photofold Camera Club*



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*Your subscription for membership costs £5, which includes 10 editions of The Resident or £3pa if a member takes the e-version.*

**Visit the BDRA Website at: [www.bdra.org](http://www.bdra.org)**

# Billericay Needs You!

## BDRA VACANT ROLES

**Chair** Good Chairs are – Assertive, Decisive, Good Listeners, Adaptable, Diplomatic, Impartial Attentive and Concise.

Do you think you have these skills? Do you care about the future of Billericay? Have you some time to spare?

You sound just like the type of person we are looking for. BDRA now has a vacancy for a Chair.

If you are interested, please contact [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org)

## Road Reps

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?

A Road Representative usually covers the same roads once a month.

Mountnessing Road and Fernbank with 15 members

Courtlands, Kenilworth Close, Wakefield Avenue and a small part of London Road (CM12 9HJ postcode only 9 houses) with 23 members

### Contact

[jimandjanweir@gmail.com](mailto:jimandjanweir@gmail.com)

## Area Membership secretary for Great Burstead & South Green

Membership Secretaries look after their particular area. The role will normally take a few hours a month and would suit anyone looking to give something back to the community. Use of email would be an advantage. Interested?

Contact [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org)



## BDRA NEWS



"Help us to help you"



## Annual General Meeting

The BDRA AGM, was held on the 21st May 2025, at The Most Holy Redeemer Church, thank you all those who were able to attend. The draft minutes will be available on the website within the next couple of weeks.



The speaker for the evening was Professor Almond, Deputy HM Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, a resident of Billericay, who gave a very interesting talk about the history and work of the Lord Lieutenants. For those of you who were unable to attend, you may be interested to know that the term Lieutenant dates back to medieval times and is made up of the term "Lieu" which is "instead of something" and "tenant" who is someone

who holds a piece of land on behalf of someone else. It was Henry VIII who initially wanted some Lieutenants who could act on his behalf to raise a militia to protect and look after his interests. One of the first people whom he chose was Lord John Petre, Baron of Ingatestone who became the first Lieutenant of Essex.

Later when Edward VI came to the throne, he decided to put Lieutenants in every county. Cromwell after the Civil War dissolved the Lieutenancies, but they were later restored after the Reformation. They were once again appointed to assemble local militia to defend the counties, for the Crown. In 1907 the role changed where they became responsible for the reserve forces. The 1974 a new role was defined where Queen Elizabeth II appointed Lord Lieutenants for each county to represent and promote the interests of the Crown. The Lord Lieutenant is currently appointed by the Sovereign after a selection process from the Cabinet Office. The Lord Lieutenant is then able to appoint deputies which are appointed based on their interests, experience and areas of expertise with the final appointment being made by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Essex currently has 50 Deputy Lord Lieutenants. It is an honouree unpaid, apolitical position. Their role is to organise visits by members of the Royal Family and to help promote their charitable interests. They also present medals and honours to local people particularly the British Empire Medal. The current Lord Lieutenant of Essex is Jenny Tolhurst who is one of the first women to be appointed.

## REMINDER...

We can now offer an e-version of The Resident. If you opt to receive the e-version you will be required to pay your subs by bank transfer. If you take the e-version your subs will be £3pa, as opposed to £5pa for the hard copy.

If you receive a hard copy of The Resident and would prefer to pay your subs by bank transfer, please email [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org) and request the bank details you will require.



## The George Hurd Activity Centre

Over 50's Activity Centre based in Basildon  
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# STATEMENT ON PLANNING DECISIONS

**M**any of you will know that there have been several planning applications approved this year as being on grey belt land. This land was historically part of the Green Belt and in many cases was of prime agricultural quality. This has come about by Basildon Borough Council (BBC) applying the latest Government planning guidance through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

We have been very much aware of resident concerns about the erosion of our Green Belt so the Billericay District Residents' Association (BDRA), with support from the Billericay Action Group (BAG), commissioned No.5 Barristers, who are experienced and knowledgeable in planning law and in application of the NPPF. The purpose of this commission was to study the actions of BBC in approving the planning applications to determine if they acted appropriately. As a result, the council's latest Green Belt Study was also taken into consideration as it was a material part of those decisions.

In summary, the barrister's view was that the council's actions were lawful and that any legal challenge (Judicial Review) was unlikely to be successful. The barrister also deemed that the Green Belt Study was a thorough piece of work done by a reputable company and as a matter of planning judgement is not something that can be challenged from a legal perspective.

Clearly this is not the outcome that many of us may have wanted but it provides some clarity where there was previously a degree of uncertainty over what BBC had done.

However, the barrister did provide some encouragement to contest the Local Plan at the 'Examination in Public' stage next

year. This is something that the BDRA and BAG had always planned to do.

Whilst it is looking increasingly difficult to make objections on Green Belt terms alone, we believe that it is still important for residents to express their views and concerns on planning applications and the Local Plan, as there are many other aspects that should be highlighted based on our local knowledge, such as infrastructure and the environment.

BAG will continue to provide advice and guidance, and we will do our utmost to ensure that we get a good outcome from the Local Plan by making representations at the examination.

We are also looking into instructing a transport consultant who will be able to help us at the examination stage in terms of the transport infrastructure.

There has been a substantial cost to the actions already taken by the BDRA and future costs will be significantly higher when we require the experts to prepare for, and participate at, the examination. The importance of defending Billericay from at least the worst excesses of the Local Plan is one of the main reasons why the BDRA exists. This is why we need the continued support of our members and the continued level of financial support through the membership

subscriptions, which will enable a thorough defence of the Local Plan to be undertaken.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Stephen Chapman**  
Vice Chair  
Billericay District Residents  
Association  
[www.bdra.org](http://www.bdra.org)

## PLANNING APPLICATION UPDATES

The two planning applications below, have been recently submitted to Basildon Borough Council, the period for the public to comment, will have closed by the time you receive this magazine.

- Potash Road**  
There was a planning application for 49 houses on Potash Road, near the Goatsmoor Lane junction. This is close to the large site where a Planning Inspector rejected an appeal last year.  
  
The site is almost certainly Dormouse habitat and may well be part of the "Battle of Billericay" battlefield from the Peasant's Revolt of 1381. As everyone in the town knows, Potash Road is especially ill-suited to support housing growth
- Greens Farm Lane**  
310 houses were proposed at Greens Farm Lane, this will narrow the vital, but already tenuous wildlife corridor between Mill Meadows nature reserve and the wider countryside. The developers are not proposing a new nature reserve as they did at one time.

In case you have lost track of the large development applications that have been submitted and approved, in the last couple of years, see below: -

**Kennel Lane**  
179 properties (started)

**Southend Road**  
99 properties (started)

**Dunton Road**  
269 properties (started)

**Maitland Lodge, Southend Road**  
47 properties (not started)

**West of Laindon Road**  
250 properties (not started)

**North of London Road**  
80 properties (not started)

**London Road, south**  
130 (awaiting decision)

**Wash Road**  
300 (decision awaited)

**Heath Close**  
23 houses, 30 sheltered accommodation (awaiting decision)

In addition to these planning applications, we are aware that there are early plans for another 1,100 houses on Dunton Road, 1,100 east of Southend Road, 200 on Tye Common Road and 350 at Outwood Common Road. If all are approved, we will see a total of over 5,000 new houses built between the A127 and Billericay. Although not in Billericay, Noak Bridge, which had 400 properties approved, not started yet, will impact residents accessing the A127 or services in Basildon.

These developments will be mainly on Green Belt land, now classified as Grey Belt. No mention of infrastructure. Our Town will be changed forever.

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# Billericay Camera Club "Photofold"

## Club History

**P**hotofold Camera Club was established in 1980, but it wasn't the town's first photographic club. The earlier club was formed in 1951 but closed due to dwindling numbers. Our club meetings were originally held in Billericay Arts Association premises, firstly, in a building that was demolished to make way for Waitrose Car Park, and then in The Fold's premises in Laindon Road. Beginning 2021/22, the club moved to a larger meeting hall at the Chantry Centre, just off the High Street. The club is thriving today with over 70 members, their experiences covering both film and digital mediums, encompassing Sports (including support to Billericay Town Football Club), Landscapes, Macro and Portrait.

## What we do

We meet weekly on a Tuesday from 20:00-22:00 from September to June. Our meetings include presentations by top-class professional photographers covering all genres, practical workshops, and internal as well as external competitions. Competitions can be either print or digital and are critiqued by external judges. The club also organises monthly outings for its members to a wide range of locations. In addition, we try to offer slightly longer trips further afield. In the past, we have visited the Lake District, Wales, Northumberland, and even the Venice Carnival.

## The Benefits

Photography offers numerous benefits, including documenting life's

moments, boosting mental well-being, fostering creativity, and enhancing communication skills. It can also be a source of joy, a stress reliever, and a way to connect with others. And of course, to improve knowledge and skills!

## Would you like to join us?

We organise exhibitions throughout the year to showcase our members' great photos. This year our main annual exhibition is being held at the Chantry Centre on Saturday, 6th September, from 10:00 – 16:00, so why not come along and take a look at some of our work? Entry is free, and if you like what you see, you can pop along to one of our meetings early in the season to meet and chat with our members. If you want to find out more

about the coming season, visit our website at [www.photofold.org.uk](http://www.photofold.org.uk), where you can view competition galleries and featured photographers. Come along for a taster session one Tuesday evening and see if it is for you! You will be very welcome!

You do not need a fancy, expensive camera to take great photos!

Did you know that photography comes from the Greek words "photos" (light) and "graphia" (drawing)? Good to know for the pub quiz!

**Don't miss our exhibition on 6th September, we hope to see you there!**



PHOTOFOLD CAMERA CLUB PRESENTS

## PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2025, 10am - 4pm  
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- Free admission
- Over 200 images
- Portrait Studio
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- Joined by the Billericay Arts Association

Find out more at [photofold.org.uk](http://photofold.org.uk)

'Deal' by Stephen Stringer



## EARLY WARNING – Billericay Horticultural Society Annual Show – Would you like to enter something?

**This year's show is on Saturday, 6th September at the Methodist Church Hall, Western Road, Billericay**

**W**ith nearly 100 classes available and no entry fee, there's plenty to inspire you – and you might even win a prize! Whether you have green fingers or not there will be something you can enter – perhaps home-made jam, a special class for men's home-made cake, or even photography. Our ever-popular handicraft classes include sewing, painting and flower arranging, while special fun classes for children include decorating vegetables and gingerbread figures.

The show is open free to the public from 2pm to 4pm. Stroll through the exhibits, and marvel at some of the entries; refreshments are available, especially our homemade cakes – and cast your vote for your favourite photographs. The

winners will be announced just before the show wraps up at 4pm. Come see the talent on display and start planning which classes you might enter next year! For more information or to take part, please see our Instagram page:

[www.instagram.com/billericayhorticulturalsoc](https://www.instagram.com/billericayhorticulturalsoc)  
or website [www.billericay-horticultural-society.co.uk](http://www.billericay-horticultural-society.co.uk)



# Residents Rise Up Against Local Plan!

## Part 3

Julian Whybra

**In 1381 Billericay was a hamlet just within the north-west boundary of Great Burstead. Situated atop a ridge where two trading routes crossed at Sun Corner, it was both prosperous and important. Everywhere the King's army had suppressed the Peasants' Revolt. Now it was Billericay's turn.**

Wat Tyler was dead, the King had reneged on all his promises to the people, but the Essex rebels would not abandon their struggle without one last effort. A summons was issued to attend a general mobilization at Galleywood and Rettendon Commons. Messengers covered the county and men marched to the assembly points, gathering horses and tools enroute. On 27th June as many as 5,000 in the Rettendon and Galleywood contingents made camp in the angle between Norsey Wood and Forty Acre Plantation, giving them a clear view westward.

The rebels dug ditches around their camp, chained carts together, and staked the perimeter. Their weapons were bows and rusted daggers, scythes, sickles and staves. Around their camp-fires they raged against injustice in their lilting Essex accents and determined to defend

their new-won freedoms. They did not even bother to post sentries.

Meanwhile, on 26th June, the vanguard of the King's army under the Earl of Buckingham and Sir Thomas Percy rode into Billericay. Almost immediately, the escaped Thomas Ledere of Billericay was apprehended, "indicted and beheaded", probably on Sun Corner. They then sought the rebels' whereabouts. Just before dawn on Friday 28th June 1381 the King's army charged the rebels' encampment from the north-west and, in one fell swoop, broke through the unguarded entrenchments, smashed the flimsy barricades, and began to slaughter the rebels. Undisciplined peasants were no match for



Richard II silver penny minted 1377-81, found within the rebel campsite in Martingale Road. ©Patricia Whybra.

Fugitives fled to Colchester where in vain they sought support: then on to Sudbury hoping to join the men of Suffolk. Instead, they found the county pacified. Royal forces attacked and routed them: the survivors escaped to Huntingdon, but were chased away. Their last stand was at Ramsey Abbey: twenty-five were slain and the rest dispersed, becoming outlaws.

Jack Straw and the captured John Ball were interrogated and executed. The archbishop-slaying John Starlying surrendered and was executed. John Geoffrey, who had led the men of Great Baddow from its churchyard to Norsey Wood "was indicted for felonious treason", came "before the lord king at Chelmsford...and was there drawn and hanged." Many were executed; many were

outlawed. At Chelmsford and Colchester it is recorded that men were sentenced to death in batches and, in the streets of Essex towns, disembowelling and hanging continued briskly.

And the silent witnesses to these events? Peasants bound for London to right the wrong of the poll tax passed before St. Mary Magdalen's brick tower in the High Street. Sun Corner frowned on Thomas Ledere's execution. Shamefaced, Norsey Wood's foliage hid the slaughter of Billericay's sons, caught like rats in a trap.

These articles began by alluding to Basilidon's Local Plan. So should they end with it. Ignoring the results of public consultations, our mean-spirited, sanctimonious central government obliged faceless local government servants of the state, with no sense of responsibility or duty to those they serve, to impose unwanted, unnecessary, sweeping change to our town. By what right do they do so? By what contract have we, the townspeople, granted them permission to ride roughshod over our heritage? Why do we allow it? We, their paymasters, deserve better.

When put to the test, our 1381 forebears were not found wanting. But now, the gage of freedom, beaten from their clenched fists, has been picked up for another fight.

**Julian's book on the Peasants' Revolt and Billericay will be published at the end of the year.**

## SANGUINE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

### ABOUT US...

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**Very soon, the sound of music will be heard wafting over Lake Meadows on a sunny afternoon. We hope Billericay people will join us for Jazz in the Park on Saturday July 12th from 4pm, bring their chairs and picnics for a free afternoon of pleasant music.**

One wonders what Major Spitty would have thought of this annual treat that gets people singing, clapping and waving their arms about by his famous lake. Like Queen Victoria he would probably have not been very amused.

Although Thomas socialised at many local and county events, attending dinners, balls and military parades, he evidently seldom spoke and his wife was very rarely seen with him. He was known as 'the squire of the town', whilst Mary



He and his wife Mary Ann Carter, who was the youngest daughter of the local doctor, Dr William Carter, were married at Christmas 1863. Thomas was ten years older than her. They lived across the High Street from the doctor at a large house owned by Thomas, known as Hurlocks. About a year after the marriage, an announcement in the Times stated that twins had been born to the happy couple. The following week another announcement was made saying it had been a mistake and there were in fact no twins! It had all been a 'mischievous fabrication'!

Ann was sometimes called 'the autocrat of the little town', taking an active part in town-life and organising sewing parties in their coach house, making clothes for poor London children.

Hurlocks was originally the oldest house in the town, although a modern Georgian front had been added during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Thomas had a belvedere or gazebo built on the roof, to which he used to escape from his wife. He could see right down to the Thames to watch out for ships invading England. If he looked in the

other direction, he could see the men digging his new lake at his Hill House Farm. Woe betides any man he saw laying down his shovel for a rest - he would immediately set off for the farm and sack the man there and then!

The men digging the lake were said to be out-of-work farm hands having returned from the Crimean war. Eventually the Moat, as it was known, was dug, although not to the original 'S' shaped design, and it was stocked with a great variety of fish. Ducks and Geese flew in and Major Spitty was able to invite his special guests to see his magnificent new creation for his shooting parties. There were also curling competitions and skating parties and later he allowed

events to be held there to raise money for different causes.

Thomas Jenner Spitty died on January 26th, 1898 and his wife in 1908. Both were buried at St Mary Magdalene church at Great Burstead, where there is a memorial to them in the nave. After his death, Hurlock's was bought by architect Aloysius Pole, who lived there until just before WW2, when the house was purchased by the London Co-operative Society. It was used during the war, first for housing officers and then troops, and afterwards as a WRVS furniture store. It was demolished in 1958, when the Co-op built a supermarket on the site, followed later by the present Blue Boar public house.

## Jazz in the Park



Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>  
4 – 7.15 pm

**Come and join us for a  
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afternoon of great music**

**Three bands:  
The Law, Nimrod & his band  
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## Dementia Action Week in Billericay



Billericay really got behind Dementia Action Week this year. Thank you to everyone involved. Many windows in the High Street turned forget-me-not blue, some displaying informative and eye-catching posters made by primary age children from Quilters and Buttsbury Schools. As in previous years, the Town Council also lent their support, took a tour around the town and judged the displays, awarding cash prizes to be donated to a dementia focused charity. Oxfam, Waitrose and RiRis were judged to have done particularly well this year and they decided to split the total of £90 between The Billericay Men's Shed and the Billericay Memory Café. These local charities do so much to support people living with dementia (and their families) to continue to live well, have fun and combat social isolation.

The week was launched at The Billericay School where 160 Year 12s became Dementia Friends. The young people were most impressive, demonstrating strong interest, empathy and commitment to trying their best to support older members of our community living with dementia. Dementia Action Week also saw the launch of the Library's Memory Café, supported by the School Council children from Quilters Junior School. The Library Memory Café will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10.30 - 12.00. A warm welcome, relaxed atmosphere, refreshments and useful sources of information and advice will all be there waiting for you! No booking required. If you'd like to drop in to the Library either on the 3rd Wednesday or at any other time, you can find out more. Also launched was the Humankind Café's Dementia Friendly Lunch. This has been designed as a welcoming space and time at the café, specially for people living with dementia and a family member/friend to go along together. The Humankind Café team will be there to offer a warm welcome and

thoughtful support so people can relax and enjoy a meal together – on the 2nd Friday of each month at 12.30. (bookings [www.humankindcafe.co.uk/events](http://www.humankindcafe.co.uk/events) or email: [hello@humankindcafe.co.uk](mailto:hello@humankindcafe.co.uk)).

The culmination of Dementia Action Week was our Dementia Information Morning, held at the Chantry Centre and, again supported by our Town Council. Many dementia focused organisations, clubs and support services were there to give advice and talk through the worries and challenges of living with dementia. If you came along, we hope you found it useful. If you didn't make it, but would like to get in touch either to get involved in the Billericay Dementia Friendly Community or to access help and support, you can do that through our Facebook Page. Billericay Dementia Friendly Community.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of Billericay's Dementia Action Week 2025.**



## Learn, laugh, live!

Are you retired or semi-retired, looking for ways to find new friends, develop new interests, take part in social activities; then joining your local u3a could be for you. Having retired six months ago, at my daughter's suggestion, I decided to do some research and look into what the u3a is all about and it has been a real joy to get involved, meet new people and explore new subjects. I joined Basildon & Billericay u3a, attended my first coffee morning, joined two groups and haven't looked back.



We hold monthly meeting at Canon Roche Social Centre in Billericay when a speaker gives a talk on a popular subject. Previous talks at our monthly meetings have been about "Glenn Miller", "Investigating Murder" and "Staying Safe on Line", to name but a few.

Groups are set up, where u3a members share their knowledge, skills, experience and enthusiasm to teach themselves and each other without any need for paid teachers. Groups subjects are wide and varied, from art appreciation, wine appreciation, elementary Spanish, knitting and needlework, scrabble, canasta, rambling and reading groups to name a few, there's something for everyone. Most groups meet monthly. Monthly coffee mornings are also held at Canon Roche Social Centre and open to all members.

There is an annual membership fee for joining, groups are free to attend, once you are a member. Not sure if it is for you? Non-members are welcome to join us for a maximum of 2 monthly meetings, for a small charge of £2 each time. This will be deducted from your membership cost if you decide to join us on the day.

Our next 2 monthly meetings are: -

• **25th July** – Chris Jeffries "How we came to like curry" is about spices and how spiced food came to Britain; the days of the Raj and retired officers coming home wishing to re-create Indian dishes. Immigrants who were brought to Britain and dis-owned and abandoned by merchant ships owners, and those who fled from the terrors of Idi Amin.

• **22nd August** – Alison Mees "Living in Africa" – Alison will be sharing with you her stories about living in Africa for over 17 years. The talk will include many of her own photos of wildlife and community as well as her talking about her experiences and telling stories from the bush.

Monthly meetings are held, on the fourth Friday of every month - not the last Friday, meetings start at 2.30 pm at the Canon Roche Social Centre 21 Laindon Road, Billericay. Look out for details of further monthly meetings and speakers, on the 'Dates for Your Diary' page, in The Resident

See our website for further details <https://bb.u3asite.uk> For more information contact Lyn on Email: [bbu3apublicityoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bbu3apublicityoffice@gmail.com).

**Looking forward to you joining us at our next meeting!**

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## BILLERICAY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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# Dates for your Diary!



## Town Council Meetings

- **Billericay Town Council Meetings** Planning, 8th and 22nd July, 5th and 19th August, 2nd September.



## Clubs and Societies

- **Anna's Place** For older adults. Dementia friendly. Crafts, puzzles, games, music, singing, lunch and refreshments 10.30am -2pm **every Tuesday**, Christ Church Hall, Perry Street, Billericay. For more information phone 01277 630144
  - **Basildon Mind** A local Charity focusing on helping people with their mental health. We hold pop-ups at the Humankind Café **every Wednesday**. We are still looking for Billericay Representatives. Contacts: 01268 289700, john@basmind.org
  - **Billericay Archaeological and Historical Society** meet at The Fold, Laindon Road, **Monday July 14th** Caroline Chisholm – A 19th Century Heroine – Joanna Bogle; **Monday September 8th** How Railways Began – 200 Years Ago – Adrian Wright. Non-Members £2, Raffle £1, refreshments £1 per person. Contact alantaylor8@openworld.com
  - **Billericay Art Club at The Fold Thursdays** 9.30-12.30 New members wanted to join small group of friendly, encouraging amateur painters at The Fold Refreshments and free parking available. Call Eileen on 01277 659347 for more information
  - **Billericay Choral Society** – Come and Sing, **Tuesdays** at 7.30pm at Methodist Church, Western Road, Billericay. For more information contact [www.billericaychoral.co.uk](http://www.billericaychoral.co.uk)
  - **Billericay Flower Arranging Group** meet on **1st Wednesday of each month** at 7.30pm for 8pm start in WI Hall, St Edith's Lane, Billericay. Visitors welcome at £7 each. Contact Linda Gilbey on 01277 656217 or email [ljgilbey@aol.com](mailto:ljgilbey@aol.com)
  - **Billericay Horticultural Society 21st July** Hostas – Melanie Collins, **August 18th** Drought Tolerant Plants for the Modern Cottage Garden – Steven Edney. Meet at Chantry Centre from 8-10pm. Visitors welcome £3.00. Refreshments available [43trouble@gmail.com](mailto:43trouble@gmail.com)
- Annual Show **6th September** 2-4pm, Methodist Church, Western Avenue, Billericay. Free Entry. Refreshments. More information available on [www.instagram.com/billericayhorticulturalsoc](http://www.instagram.com/billericayhorticulturalsoc) or [www.billericay-horticultural-society.co.uk](http://www.billericay-horticultural-society.co.uk)
- **Billericay Lions Club** meet in The Duchess Suite at The Duke's Head PH on the **second and fourth Mondays every month** 8-10pm. If you would like to make new friends, whilst helping those less fortunate than yourself, please get in touch 0345 833 9849. For more information [www.billericaylions.com](http://www.billericaylions.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](mailto:billericaymensshed@gmail.com) or phone 07544 752686
  - **Billericay Branch of The Mother's Union** meet on **4th Wednesday each month** at 1pm for 1.30pm start in the Mayflower/Pilgrim Rooms of The Emmanuel Archer Hall 66-68 Laindon Road, Billericay CM12 9LD. We have a variety of Speakers and activities, Contact Pauline 07939102945
  - **Billericay and District Parkinsons Support Group** We have **every Monday and Tuesday** at 11.30am at Studio360 our exercise classes; **every other Tuesday** Let's Sing Group meet at 2pm in Christchurch, Wickford, our Walk and Talk Group meet **every Thursday** at 11am at main entrance of Lake Meadows to walk a loop or two and tea at the end; Monthly meeting on **3rd Saturday of each month** at Emmanuel Hall at 2.30pm.
  - **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](mailto:Goodson@carersfirst.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 **Monday 14th July, Monday 11th August, Monday 8th September** – Parents are given a warm and friendly welcome in a safe environment. Contact Lyn on 07387805406 or e-mail [lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lyn-currie@hotmail.co.uk) [www.gone-too-soon.online](http://www.gone-too-soon.online)
  - **Hearing Help Essex – Hearing Aid Support Session** Monthly maintenance sessions for NHS hearing aid users at The Chantry Centre. To book an appointment call 01245 496347, text -07950 406173 or book online at [www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk](http://www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk)
  - **Offshoots Singing Group** meet on **1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month** at St Johns Church, Outwood Common Rd CM11 2LE from 7.45-9.45pm. No auditions. Parking on site. Contact [geoffrudd47@gmail.com](mailto:geoffrudd47@gmail.com) or phone 07763424206
  - **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](http://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](mailto:stevejk88@outlook.com) for more details.
  - **Probus Club of Billericay and Shenfield** welcomes retired gentlemen members to our 3-course lunch meetings, which includes a guest Speaker at Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite, Hutton on the **last Thursday of every month**. Please contact [ianmarshall112@gmail.com](mailto:ianmarshall112@gmail.com) for more information.
  - **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](mailto:stephanie4probus@gmail.com) for more details.
  - **Mystical Fair, Mind, Body, Spirit and Wellbeing Saturday 9th August**, Chantry Centre, Chantry Way CM11 2AP Explore a variety of stalls offering unique products and services, such as Crystals, Clairvoyance, Tarot, Psychic Readings, Holistic Therapies, Healing and Spiritual Gifts. We are supporting the charity S.M.I.L.E. Entry £3 on the door
  - **Outwood Common Tenants and Residents** – Chat with a Cuppa – A warm space and a friendly face **every Friday** 10-11.30am, for an informal chat, a cuppa and biscuits. Everyone welcome. St. John's Church, Outwood Common Rd CM11 2LE



- **Remus Horse Sanctuary** 13th July **Summer Sale, Stock Village Hall** – 11am-2pm; **14th July, 21st July, 11th August**, Afternoon Tea at the Sanctuary. 2.15pm start. Cost £25 per person. Booking essential; **18th July** Remus AGM Billericay Reading Rooms 11am start; **19th July** Summer Sale Billericay Reading Rooms – 9am-4pm. **20th June, 17th August** Online Auction via Remus Facebook Page. Starts 11am; **20th July, 17th August** Curry Lunch at Nirvana Indian Restaurant, Ingatestone. £22 per person. 2pm for 2.15pm start. Booking essential; **27th July, 18th August** Pamper a Pony – Open all ages 11-90 years. 10am-12noon at The Sanctuary. Meet, feed and groom your pony and tour The Sanctuary £20 per person; **3rd August** Open Day at The Sanctuary 1-4pm. Refreshments available; **10th August** Members Day at The Sanctuary 2-4pm. Booking essential, limited spaces; **15th August, 29th August** Pony Day 10am-2pm Meet your pony, muck out, feed and groom and tour Sanctuary £40 per person, ages 11-90years; **24th August** Holistic Therapies Workshop at The Sanctuary 11am-3pm £40 per person. Booking in advance required, contact Office 01277 356191; 31st August Sponsors Day Come and meet your Sponsored animal 2-4pm. Limited spaces, booking essential; **7th September** Open Day and Fun Dog Show at The Sanctuary 1-4pm. Contact <https://www.remussanctuary.org/events>.
- **Royal British Legion Billericay Branch** meets on **last Wednesday of the month** at 8pm in the Chantry Centre. You don't have to have served in the Forces to join or help. Contact Derek on 07757 313688, [derekgprior@hotmail.com](mailto:derekgprior@hotmail.com)
- **Spike's Place Jazz Club** Bardswell Social Club, Weald Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4TJ. 8pm start Telephone 01245 420475. [www.spikesplace.co.uk](http://www.spikesplace.co.uk) or Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. £15 cash on the door. Fully accessible. **Tuesday 1st July** Alan Barnes saxes, John Pearce piano, Andy Cleyndert bass, Matt Fishwick drums; **Tuesday 8th July** Greg Abate tenor sax, John Pearce piano, Andy Cleyndert bass, Alfonso Vitale drums; **Tuesday 15th July** Jo Fooks tenor sax, John Pearce piano, Marianne Windham bass, Buster Birch drums; **Tuesday 22nd July** Sarah Moule and the Simon Wallace Trio
- **Stock Brook Ladies Probus Group** meets on the **3rd Wednesday of each month** to listen to a speaker and take lunch together at Crondon Park Golf Club. All are welcome. Please contact stockbrookladiesprobus @talktalk.net for more details.
- **The Next Chapter Bereavement Group** We meet **every 2nd Saturday of the month** at Emmanuel Church Hall at 10.30am-12.30 for coffee and chats for widows and widowers. For more information ring Sandra 07957 348006

- **APPLE Bridge** Friendly Club meets at Hannakins Farm, Rosebay Avenue on **Wednesday mornings** for duplicate sessions at 9.45. Sessions cost £4 per session. Bring own refreshments. Contact 07552 753075
- **Anne Owen Bridge Club** meets at Hannakins Farm Community Centre, Rosebay Avenue CM12 0SY on **Tuesday afternoons** at 1.15pm for 1.30pm start for friendly bridge. Members £3, Visitors £4 per person per session. For further information, contact Mrs Janet L'Estrange on 01277 624078.

## 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



## 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](http://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/](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/lakemeadows-juniors/) or visit our Facebook page: Lake Meadows junior parkrun
- **Billericay Town Walking Football** We train at Billericay Town FC. Men 50+on **Mondays** 8pm-9.30pm and **Thursdays** 10am-12pm (£6 per session) **Mondays** 7pm-8pm for Ladies 40+ (£5 per session). E-mail Bill at [btfcwf@gmail.com](mailto:btfcwf@gmail.com)
- **Outwood Common Tenants and Residents** – Seated Yoga **Friday** 11.15-11.45am at St John's Church. £1.50 a session. **First session free**. Open to everyone of all ages and abilities

**To advertise your event here, please email [resident@bdra.org](mailto:resident@bdra.org)**

**Deadline for the next issue is 10th August for events taking place between 10th September and 9th October.**

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# 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:

QPR – Queens Park Roundabout (for holiday trip only), 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.*

*If you are a solo traveller on a trip, we ask you to provide a contact number when booking, in case of an emergency on the trip.*

## A VISIT TO ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS, LUNCH ON THE SPA VALLEY RAILWAY AND TIME PERMITTING A STOP AT POLHILL GARDEN CENTRE – SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**FULL**

On leaving Billericay we make our way to the charming historic town of Royal Tunbridge Wells, which has been attracting visitors for 400 years. We will be here before our train trip, to allow us to explore some of the town and The Pantiles which is the old part of the town, where there are shops galore, or just enjoy a cup of coffee in one of the many cafes. Tunbridge Wells West station is located at The Pantiles end of town which is a 10/15 minutes' walk. We board our train at 12.30pm and depart at 12.45pm. Our freshly prepared fish and chip lunch will be served on our journey and includes a drink and cake dessert. On our journey home and time permitting we are planning to stop at Polhill Garden Centre to end our day.

**Cost:** Coach, Train Tickets, Fish/ Sausage and Chip Lunch (Veggie Burgers & Chips are available). £50.50

Unfortunately, the railways are unable to cater for vegans or gluten free requirements, due to their suppliers.

**Depart:** GG 8.30am. OA 8.35am. LR 8.45am. SG 8.50am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

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

**Telephone: 01277 840560**

## A DAY TRIP TO BRIGHTON AND CREAM TEA AT THE MALDRON HOTEL – THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

**SEATS AVAILABLE**

More than just a seaside resort, Brighton has a lot to offer. Have a day to yourself to explore The Lanes, which have an extraordinary mix of shops. If you have never visited The Royal Pavilion and are interested in royal history, it is well worth a visit. Located in The Royal Pavilion Gardens is Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, an admission is required. The Sea Life Centre is the oldest in the world and very close to the seafloor and provides a fascinating insight into life below the waves. Weather permitting take a stroll along the promenade and after your walk find a deckchair to relax in. We have booked The Maldron Hotel at 3pm for a cream tea, before we depart for home.

**Cost:** Coach & Cream Tea £30.00

**Depart:** GG 8.15am. OA 8.20am. LR 8.30am. SG 8.35am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

**Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Tuesday 24th June**

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

**Telephone: 01277 840560**

## THE SAVILL GARDEN AND 2 HOUR THAMES CRUISE WITH CREAM TEA – TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

**FULL – PLEASE PAY NOW**

Our first stop is The Savill Garden a hidden gem in the heart of Windsor Great Park. There will be plenty time to explore the beautiful gardens. It has two gift shops, a farm shop and a plant shop. You can purchase a drink, a sandwich, or a meal in one of the cafes or if you prefer bring your own food and have a picnic. After lunch we board the coach for the 15-minute journey to Runnymede where we board our boat. Our cruise with commentary will take us to the back garden of Windsor Castle with views of the Castle, Royal Farm and Queen Adelaide's Cottage. We will also go through Old Windsor Lock, the village of Datchet and Romney Lock. A cream tea will be provided during the cruise. Please mention any dietary requirements when booking. Any drinks bought on the boat must be paid for in cash.

**Cost:** £58.50 which includes entry to the garden, cruise and cream tea.

**Depart:** GG 8.30am. OA 8.35am. LR 8.45am. SG 8.50am.

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

**Telephone: 01277 622342**

## BBC GARDENERS WORLD AUTUMN FAIR AT AUDLEY END HOUSE AND GARDEN, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX – SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST

**FULL – PLEASE PAY NOW**

**WHAT'S ON: TOO MUCH TO DETAIL AND WILL BE A FULL DAY. SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, SO HERE IS A SUMMARY:**

Expert tips + Garden inspiration + Plants to buy + Great shopping + Showcase Gardens + Beautiful Borders + Plant Expert Tours + NEW! Autumn Table + Hands-on workshops + BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Stage + Good Food Market + Street food + Live music + Access to Audley End House and Garden. Also,

importantly meet The Experts, who will be announced nearer our date and have fun.

**Cost:** Coach & Entrance Under 65 – £42.00 **Concessions:** Over 65 – £40.60

**Depart:** GG 9.00am. OA 9.05am. LR 9.15am. SG 9.20am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.00pm.

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

**Telephone: 01277 840560**

## Snape Maltings (with Farmers Market) AND ALDEBURG – SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

**★ NEW TRIP ★**

We start our day in Snape Maltings which sits on the river Alde surrounded by an area of outstanding beauty. Explore the collection of independent shops and galleries at Snape Maltings – with carefully selected home wear, clothing, ceramics, antiques, plants, arts and crafts, Suffolk food and drink and much more. That day there will be a farmers' market with lots of local produce to sample. If shopping is not for you, you can enjoy a walk along the river or a 45-minute boat trip (£16). There are places to have a drink, snack or a meal. We then travel the short distance to Aldeburgh with its lovely beach, bustling shops and award-winning fish and chip shop.

**Cost:** £22.00

**Depart:** GG 8.00am. OA 8.05am. LR 8.15am. SG 8.20am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

**Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Monday 14th July**

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

**Telephone: 01277 622342**

## GUIDED TOUR OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA (90 MINS) & THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM – THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

**★ NEW TRIP ★**

We spend the morning at the National Army Museum which has several galleries displaying army uniforms, military vehicles, a Lynx helicopter and exhibits from army history dating from the 1600's to the present. There is a skeleton of Napoleon's horse Merengo, an amputation saw used to amputate the Earl of Uxbridge's leg at the battle of Waterloo and a section of the Berlin wall. There is a cafe which serves light lunches snacks and drinks. After lunch we go nearby to the Royal Hospital Chelsea and enjoy a guided tour led by one of the Chelsea Pensioners. We will explore some of the most stunning historic buildings in London and gain an insider's perspective on what life is like as part of this unique community. Apart from seven steps which has a handrail and a chair lift it's all on the flat.

**Cost:** £45.00 which includes coach, entry to the National Army Museum, entry and guided tour of the Chelsea Hospital

**Depart:** GG 8.15am. OA 8.20am. LR 8.30am. SG 8.35am. Back in Billericay approximately 6.30pm.

**Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Tuesday 15th July**

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

**Telephone: 01277 622342**

## NEW FOR 2026 – COACH HOLIDAY AT 2024 PRICE! IMPERIAL HOTEL EASTBOURNE – SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026 - WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

**DEPOSIT TO BE PAID NOW. SOME ROOMS STILL AVAILABLE. PLEASE RING IF INTERESTED.**

Included:-

- 5 days half board
- 2 full day excursions (places to be arranged)
- 1 evening half price bar (5pm till 9pm)
- Entertainment every evening

Usual pick up points times to be arranged.

The Imperial Hotel is ideally situated 100yards from the beach and close to 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. Wi Fi is available. There are 16 single room available with no single supplement. (Only one room per person can be booked).

**Cost:** £299.00. Deposit £30. Balance due January 2026.

**Please telephone to book after 9.00am on Tuesday 20th May**

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

**Telephone: 01277 622342**

**In case of cancellation please arrange your own insurance as a refund can only be given if your room can be reallocated**

**★ NEW HOLIDAY FOR 2026 ★**

**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.