

2 Rose Lane,
Wivenhoe,
Essex.

14th February, 1970.

Dear Member,

Here is the second edition of the Newsletter for this year with details of our activities.

Talk by Mr. Edward Gittens

There is one more public meeting before the Annual General Meeting this year. On Tuesday, 24th February, in the Public Hall Mr Edward Gittens will talk on "The Changing Countryside - A Planner's View". This will be at eight o'clock and will be illustrated with slides. Until recently Mr Gittens worked for the Essex County Council and is more than qualified to talk on this subject. It is hoped that members will come in as large numbers as possible, bringing with them prospective non-members.

Membership

Since the present year began, that is, since last March, our membership has doubled. However, to jump from a microscopic 38 to a mere 76, while satisfying is not nearly good enough for a town of this size. So we hope that you will all turn up on Tuesday week and that by the A.G.M. we can at least make our numbers up to around hundred.

The Annual General Meeting

This will be on 24th March, 1970, at which you will be asked to approve and to ratify the new constitution which we have just drafted, and also to vote for the new officers and committee. For the first time in our history we are having a ballot and should you wish to stand for the committee or know anyone else who would like to you should let the Chairman or the Secretary know. I will be giving you more news about the A.G.M. in the next Newsletter. Here is the first advance notice of it.

The Wivenhoe Wood

The Public Inquiry into the future of the wood was conducted on our side by Mr R. Dreschfield from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and as at the first inquiry he did an excellent job for us. We were also particularly grateful for the evidence given by Mr Fred Dann at the inquiry. We are extremely optimistic as to the result.

The Rowhedge Ferry Road

There is little to say about this except that here, too, the result of the Public Inquiry is still pending and that for the meantime the road remains open.

European Conservation Year

The Wivenhoe Wood and the Rowhedge Ferry Road have kept the Society pretty busy for the past year. Both were urgent tasks but it has meant that we have not yet had sufficient leisure to do much else. We have tried to prevent the disappearance of two amenities but we want, now, to do something on the positive side as well.

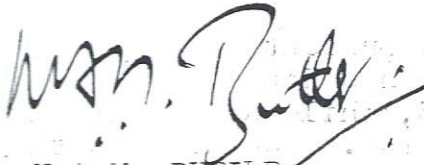
The chance has come in the form of European Conservation Year. To celebrate this, the Essex Naturalist Trust has proposed

that local societies should enter a competition. Each has to produce a conservation project and to carry it out within the year and then at the end be judged together. The matter has been debated by the Committee and we thought that we might make the footpath from Wivenhoe to Hythe our project. What do you think? Do let us know if you have any ideas, preferably at the next public meeting.

The Future

The 1970's have opened with one of the biggest breakthroughs in the history of mankind. The whole question of environment has now become a matter for public, rather than private concern. We have begun to hear the word ecology constantly, (which means the science of living things in their surroundings), and there is no doubt that at the next General Election this will be one of the major issues. No longer are those who want to keep the countryside beautiful regarded as cranks standing in the way of an inevitable and wholly beneficial urbanisation. We have discovered that we need our environment but that the environment - a humbling thought - can do without us. So please join the Wivenhoe Society and add your interest and enthusiasm to the cause.

Yours sincerely,


N.A.M. BUTLER
(Meetings Secretary)