

THE WIVENHOE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

2 Rose Lane,  
Wivenhoe, Essex

22nd November 1969

Dear Member,

It is some time since you were sent a Newsletter about our activities. So I am writing to apologize for this omission and to bring you up to date with all our activities.

The Rowhedge Ferry Road

In the past six months our magnum opus has been the Rowhedge Ferry Road. We feel that this right of way should be preserved for the use of future generations, especially in view of the anticipated increase in the population, and to this end we engaged Mr. R. Dreschfield, from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England to come and present our case. (He also represented the East Donyland Parish Council and the C.P.R.E. itself at the Inquiry).

In addition an independent group headed by Messrs. John Worsp and John Leather briefed Mr. Michael Parker, a barrister of 21 years standing and an expert on rights of way, while Mr. Ledger appeared for the Essex County Council. We cannot yet know what the decision will be on the road but you can be quite certain that our point of view was put at the Inquiry as well as it possibly could be. Our thanks are due to all of you who found time to attend.

Council for the Preservation of Rural England

Mention of the C.P.R.E. leads me on to our next piece of information: that we have become affiliated to this organisation. This means that for a small fee we are kept in touch with the work of other societies like our own in Essex and that we can call upon expert advice whenever we need it. It was by this affiliation that we were able to obtain Mr. Dreschfield, who is an ex barrister.

Wivenhoe Wood Public Inquiry

We hope to call upon Mr. Dreschfield's services again when on 20th January, 1970, the Public Inquiry into the future of Wivenhoe Wood opens. Having already organized a personal petition for the wood - (and about to start another) - I can vouch for the fact that the vast majority of Wivenhoe residents feel very strongly that the wood should be retained in its present state for the future benefit of the town.

In this connection you should know that the Wivenhoe Society is going to take the appropriate steps to have the paths in this wood registered officially as public rights of way. We shall do this by proving a thing known at law as "long user", that is, producing written depositions by people who can say that they have been walking in the wood continuously for a period of twenty years or more. Please help us with this task when the time comes. (That is, as soon as the Inquiry is over.)

### Tour of North East Essex

On a Sunday last month the Society hired a coach from Cedric's Garages and went on a round trip of Essex, one which proved such a success that we intend to make this an annual feature of our activities.

Our first stop was at Stebbing, with its Church Farm, then Tilty, with its lovely unplanned church that was once a chapel outside the gates of a Cistercian Abbey. Thaxted has the Recorder's House and the church of St. John the Baptist and we made our longest stop at Tewes, a beautiful 15th century Manor House with its timber frame and oak-mullioned windows. We returned home via Finchingfield and Wethersfield. Unhappily, we were not able to advertise this outing sufficiently early to attract greater numbers. Next year we hope to do better!

### Wine and Cheese Party

It is important for the members of a Society to meet from time to time in an informal way, so on Friday, 19th December, we are having a wine and cheese party in the Public Hall. Admission will be 3/6d. a head and we hope that you will all come, bringing as many prospective members as possible. Mr. Charles Josephs has promised to show us his transparencies of our coach trip as an added attraction.

### Talk by Mr. Edward Gittens

On Friday, 2nd January 1970, we start the new year with a talk by one of our members who until recently was working with the Essex County Council, and who, having been co-opted on to the Committee, has been giving us useful advice ever since. This will be an opportunity to find out more about how government works and how Public Inquiries, surveys, planning orders and the like really operate.

Yours sincerely,

N. A. M. BUTLER  
(Meetings Secretary)