

The Wivenhoe Society

1970-1

NEWSLETTER No. 1

Dear Member,

Here is the first Newsletter of our year 1970-1. It will be followed by five others up to the next Annual General Meeting in which we will try to keep you as much in touch with our aims and objects as possible.

As you see it is presented in a more professional way than its fore-runners. We are moving towards having it printed properly and this is a first step.

For those of you who have not yet paid your subscriptions for the current year I enclose Invitation to Membership forms. Last year was one of internal organisation ending in our producing the new constitution. This year is to be one in which, we hope, we can put the Society well and truly on the map. We are going to have a recruiting drive and hope to raise our numbers ultimately to 400. That is our target and we hope that you will help by asking your friends to join. We need your subscriptions, but even more we need your opinions, your encouragement, your active support.

Public Meeting - Thursday, 14th May, 1970

We have great pleasure in announcing that on the above date, at 8 p. m. in the Public Hall, Mr. Stewart Linsell, the Warden of the Fingringhoe and Wick Nature Reserve, is coming to address the Society. (This will be announced, also, by printed posters and if you would like to display one please let me know.)

As one stands on the disused railway track by Alresford Creek one can see, across the river a jetty which juts out of the spit of land opposite. Beyond it is the Fingringhoe and Wick Nature Reserve which many of you may already have visited. It used to be a site for working sand and gravel but has now been converted into a preserve for flora and fauna. Trees are growing up everywhere, there are many species of wild duck and other birds, including the Brent goose, and hides have been built where you can watch them.

For this meeting, which will be illustrated by slides, we have taken the Public Hall itself so, to fill the hall, we need everybody's support. Do come and bring your friends. As you know, we always let people attend one meeting of the Society free of charge. As last year, the talk will be preceded by a brief talk by the Chairman to bring you all up-to-date on the Committee's activities.

The Council Elections

Those of you who attended the Annual General Meeting will know that a motion was passed to the effect that all this year's candidates should be sent a questionnaire about matters pertinent to the aims and objects of the

Society and a copy of this questionnaire is attached.

There are eight candidates standing but we only received three replies. Neither of the Councillors seeking reelection, Mr. Cracknell or Mr. Endean replied, nor, at the time of sending out this letter, have Mr. Carlin or Mrs. Baker, two of the Labour candidates, and we have heard nothing from Mr. Langford-Allan, the Independent Conservative.

However, Mrs. Doherty, an Independent candidate, has written to say that she is "not altogether happy at the proposed approach to candidates" but that she would be willing to answer questions at a public meeting subject to certain conditions, but that she could not answer plain yes or no to questions at present.

Alas, there has not been time to organize a meeting for the candidates, although Mrs. Last and Mr. Morsley both expressed themselves willing to speak at one. But both these candidates have answered the questionnaire.

Mrs. Last, Independent, is in favour both of more open council meetings and greater press coverage, though she wonders if the press are sufficiently interested. She recognizes the need for further playing fields and would like to see the Wivenhoe Wood become an amenity to the town, but, she asks, how? She wants to see Footpath No. 8 repaired but feels that there are more pressing issues. She wants the Rowhedge Ferry Road to remain open. She wants Park Road to be made up and feels that this will happen when the Valley Estate is completed. She is in favour of the pedestrian crossing. She would like a swimming pool "provided that the necessary finance for such a venture can be raised by public support". She was prepared to answer questions at a public meeting and for the answer to the final question refers us to her election address.

Mr. Morsley answers yes to questions 1 & 2, though pointing out that some matters must of their nature remain private. He wants better facilities for sport and wants the Wivenhoe Wood to remain as such. He is in favour of repairing Footpath No. 8 and on the subject of the Rowhedge Ferry Road refers us to his letter in "The Essex County Standard". He wants Park Road to be made up, for there to be a pedestrian crossing at Heath Road and for there to be a swimming pool, but this, he says, would have to be built by voluntary labour. He was prepared to speak at a public meeting and on the last question says he would like there to be a community centre where all the societies could organize activities and where there might be an evening institute. He says, also, that people feel remote from the Council.

About the other candidates' views we know virtually nothing. It is, however, probably worth mentioning that Mrs. Doherty spoke both at the Rowhedge Ferry Road Inquiry and at the Wivenhoe Wood Inquiry. She was in favour of developing the Wivenhoe Wood for building. The rest is silence, but perhaps the thoughtful voter will find it an indicative one.

The Rowhedge Ferry Road

The Minister indicated that he would reopen the Inquiry if Gliksten Services Limited chose to appeal on one, rather narrow issue, that of the possible danger to the public from the fork loading trucks which cross the road. This they have chosen to do and the Wivenhoe Society will now again contend this matter. Meanwhile, we have written to the Wivenhoe Urban District Council that Gliksten's should be requested to remove the pair of gates blocking the entrance to the road and that a proper nameplate should be erected at the entrance to the road.