

THE WIVENHOE SOCIETY

1970-1

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

Dear Member,

Events have moved so quickly in the past month that the second Newsletter follows hard on the heels of the first. However, you will not receive the third until September, when I will give you details of our Autumn programme.

The Rowhedge Ferry Road Public Inquiry - Wednesday, 24th June.

Our most important - and urgent - piece of news is that the Public Inquiry into a proposed stopping-up of a length of the Rowhedge Ferry Road is to be re-opened on Wednesday, 24th June, at 10.30 a.m. in the Public Hall.

As you may know, Wivenhoe was very well represented at the first Inquiry. The Essex Council sent along a representative, a petition was handed in together with several letters, while two professional barristers, Mr. Ralph Dreschfield, C.M.G. and Mr. Michael Parker, appeared respectively for the Wivenhoe Society and a group called The Rowhedge Ferry Road Action Committee.

On this occasion many arguments were put forward by both sides, but on 24th of this month the Inquiry is to centre on one fairly small aspect of the matter, that of danger to the public. We have great pleasure in announcing that, as before, Mr. Dreschfield will again represent us, (and at the same time the East Donyland Parish Council and The Council for the Protection of Rural England), while at the moment of sending you this letter it seems almost certain that Mr. Parker will be also available.

We hope that as many of you as possible will find time to attend, if only for a short while on that day. Please send your letters for the Inspector to me at 2, Rose Lane, Wivenhoe, and I will see that they reach him.

Footpath No. 8 - Wivenhoe to Hythe.

Linked to the problem of the Ferry Road is that of the pleasant river walk from Wivenhoe to the Hythe. As you probably know, a gap of some 25 feet wide has appeared in the wall at a point near the town and to repair it would now be a major contractual undertaking. So we are busy trying to find out who is responsible for the unkeep of the wall and when we have done so we will press for it to be repaired. With the advent of the University it provides an easy route from thence into the town, via the Ferry Road.

Mr. Dudley Young.

Meanwhile, the Society has forged another link with the University, actual rather than potential, for since I last wrote to you we have co-opted a young Canadian lecturer, Mr. Dudley Young, on to the Committee. He lives in the White House in the High Street and is anxious to help the Society in any way possible.

Since by the year 1982 there will be 8,000 people in Wivenhoe Park and only 5,000 in Wivenhoe itself - perhaps a somewhat daunting thought - you will agree that it is high time that we had a representative from this rapidly expanding community.

The Fingringhoe and Wick Nature Reserve - Sunday, 5th July.

At our first public meeting last month the Society put out a feeler in the opposite direction - towards the Fingringhoe and Wick Nature Reserve, the nearest Reserve to us as the Brent goose flies. We were so impressed by a lecture given to us by the present Warden, Mr. Stewart Linsell, that we decided to make a trip over there and a date has now been settled, the afternoon of Sunday, 5th July. All of you who would like to come should contact myself or any other member of the Committee and we will arrange for you to get over there somehow, whether by car or coach according to numbers. If we go by coach the cost will be 5/- per head.

Grand Post-Election Jumble Sale - Friday, 19th June.

We need funds. The Society is coming on but there is much more work to be done and if we are to expand our activities properly we must have the money with which to do so. There are trees we should like to plant ... buildings we should like to help renovate ... there may be more litigation ... it would be nice to bring this Newsletter out oftener ... So please help. Let us have your jumble and come and buy other people's. We open our doors at 7 p.m. and the venue is the Public Hall. We think that you will find this a nice, soothing post-election occupation.

Our Candidates and Conservation.

After the last Newsletter had gone out to you I received a letter from Mrs. Baker, one of the Socialist candidates, replying to the Questionnaire. This brings the number of candidates who replied, in one form or another, up to six and I think that we can account it a success.

Mrs. Laura Baker is in favour of more Council Meetings to which the public are admitted and for a fuller press coverage of meetings. She is not satisfied with the present facilities for either football or tennis. She would like too the Wivenhoe Wood to remain as an amenity to the town, footpath No. 8 to be repaired and the Rowhedge Ferry Road to remain open. She would like Park Road to be made up and for there to be a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Colchester Road with Heath Road. She would like Wivenhoe to have its own swimming-pool. As to public speaking she says: "I am sorry but I am not used to public speaking yet!" Finally, as to improvements, she would like to see paths and road round the Vine Farm Estate made up, better street lighting, a third doctor in the town, and a nursery school built.

Turning from the local election to the impending General Election, we thought it right, in this year of Conservation, to put questions to our three candidates. To date, two have replied and the third has promised to do so. We asked them about derelict land, pollution and wild life. Here is what they say.

Mr. Andrew Phillips, our Socialist candidate, writes to say that since 1945 the Labour party has "consistently sought to improve our physical environment in all sorts of various ways. At present Anthony Crosland is deeply committed to eradication of avoidable pollution and, if the government is returned, he intends to promote a major piece of legislation to that end." He continues: "Personally, I am an active advocate of the ideals and ambitions which I understand your society exists to forward. In Sudbury, Suffolk (my home town) I was principally responsible in 1964 for the successful fight to preserve our Corn Exchange, now used as a public library and have persistently pressed for selective preservation of the town's distinguished buildings and hence its general environment".

Mr. Tom Dale, our Liberal candidate, says: "Liberal policy for the taxation of land values will force owners of derelict land in this country to clear it and to make an economic use of these wasted areas". And on pollution and wild life he refers us to the booklet "Liberals Look Ahead". This stresses the need for co-operation between various bodies responsible in these matters and for simplification in this field.

Finally, we should again say that Mr. Julian Ridsdale, our Conservative candidate has promised to reply and we will print his answers in our next issue. But so that his case will not be prejudiced in any way we quote a sentence or so from "A Better Tomorrow", the Conservative party manifesto. "We will ensure that the natural beauty of our British countryside and seashore is conserved and wild life allowed to flourish. We intend to launch a major campaign in which government, local authorities and voluntary organisations will combine to produce a healthier, pleasanter Britain We will set clearly defined aims and target-dates for the achievement of cleaner air and rivers, and for the clearance of derelict land"

Of course conservation is only one issue, though already recognised as a major one, out of many. But perhaps you might like to keep this Newsletter to hand for reference after the election. For here are specific promises. We must not let them be forgotten.

The Wivenhoe Regatta - Saturday, 25th July.

On Saturday afternoon, 25th July, members of the Society will be in charge of a coconut shy next to Mr. Guy Harding's premises. We hope that you will all come and join us in the course of the Regatta. It is the first time that we have taken part and we want our stall to be a success.

The Wivenhoe Wood.

The Society has great pleasure in reminding its members of the decision in the Wivenhoe Wood Public Inquiry. The citizens of the town responded wonderfully - 1,200 signatures, 50 letters - and we were all delighted with the result.

However, we are not yet out of, or indeed into, the Wood yet. A fresh application has been submitted for permission to build on $4\frac{1}{2}$ of the original 21 acres, as a result of a hint contained in the Minister's letter. The Wivenhoe Society opposes this compromise and is sending a letter to the Essex County Council stating as much.

Meanwhile, I have received a letter from Messrs. Elwes, Wittey & Company, the Solicitors acting for the applicant, reminding us that the Wood is private property and informing us that the Wivenhoe Urban District Council are about to erect a fence along the boundary at Rosabelle Avenue. Our Solicitors are drafting a suitable reply at this moment and we propose to print both the original letter and the reply in our next Newsletter.

A Reminder.

This has been, of necessity, a long letter. So finally, here again are the dates in our calendar for the next month or so:

Friday, 19th June, at 7 p. m. in the Public Hall:
Grand Post-Election Jumble Sale.

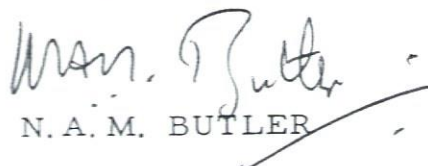
Wednesday, 24th June, at 10.30 a. m. in the Public Hall:
THE ROWHEDGE FERRY ROAD PUBLIC INQUIRY

Sunday, 5th July, at 2.30 p. m. :
Visit to the Fingringhoe and Wick Nature Reserve.

Saturday, 25th July, in the afternoon:
The Wivenhoe Regatta.

Of these four events it is the Inquiry that is the important one. Please help Wivenhoe save this right of way, by coming to the Inquiry, by writing a letter, or both.

Yours sincerely,


N. A. M. BUTLER