

1970-1

NEWSLETTER No. 3

Dear Member,

Our Summer recess is over and the Committee meet again in early September. We are joined, now, by Professor B. M. Barry, whom we have asked, and who in principle has accepted, the post of Chairman for the rest of the year 1970-1.

Public Meeting on Tuesday, 20th October 1970

But before he can assume the post he must be formally proposed and seconded, and then voted into office at an Extraordinary Public Meeting of the Society. This meeting will take place on Tuesday, 20th October, at 8 o'clock in the Public Hall. It will also be the occasion of an address to the Society by Mr. Denys Turbeville, the Assistant Registrar of the University of Essex and the member of the Essex County Council for Wivenhoe.

I have asked Mr. Turbeville to tell us something about the future of Wivenhoe but he has not yet decided upon a title for his talk. He is hoping to show some slides. We hope that as many of you as possible will come and support this important meeting.

Outing to Audley End on Sunday, 27th September 1970

Our last round trip of Essex in a coach was such a success that we have decided to have another this year. We are only making one visit this time: to Audley End, starting from Cedric's Garage at 10.00 a.m. and returning to Wivenhoe at about 5 o'clock. The cost will be 15s.0d. per adult, 7s.6d. per child, inclusive of admission but not of lunch. Please contact Mr. Hew Naylor, (WIV 2430) or myself (WIV 2504) if you would like to come.

The Jumble Sale and the Regatta

On the day following the General Election we entered one of the traditional fields of fund-raising and collected the tidy sum of £14. 3. 9., which the veterans of these occasions assure us is not bad for a maiden jumble. A month or so later we erected a coconut shy on the Quay and made a profit of £3 - again a first appearance.

Our thanks are due for the first event to Mrs. Hure and Mr. Joyce, and for the second to Mr. Gittins, Mr. Worsp and Mr. Naylor. Funds apart we feel that we should become as public as possible and that these two events helped to establish a public image.

The General Election and the Future

In the pamphlet "A Better Tomorrow" there is a short section under the title "A Better Environment" which I now reprint in its entirety:

"Economic growth and technological innovation are the principal means of achieving a continuing improvement in our standard of living. But the effects of technological change can sometimes lead to a deterioration in the natural environment and in the quality of life. The public are rightly concerned about these dangers.

"We will improve the machinery for dealing with these problems. We will review existing legislation to ensure proper and sensible control in the future. The damage of the past must be repaired. The worst scars are in and around our industrial cities and towns. We will ensure that the natural beauty of our British countryside and seashore is conserved and wild life is 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 vigorously pursue international agreements for the safeguarding and improvement of the environment. We will set clearly defined aims and target-dates for the achievement of cleaner air and rivers, and for the clearance of derelict land."

Naturally, not all our members are Conservatives. But as one of the many "voluntary organisations" we look forward to playing a part in the promised campaign. The next five years will see a growing awareness of the problems of pollution and ecology and The Wivenhoe Society will keep in touch with what is being done at a national level.

Meanwhile, I have received a reply from Mr. Julian Ridsdale, our re-elected Member of Parliament, to my letter at the time of the election. He says:

"I will certainly do anything I can to help about the problems of derelict land, pollution and the conservation of wild life. If you can send me any particular cases which concern you, I shall be only too pleased to take them up."

The Rowhedge Ferry Road

The matter of the Rowhedge Ferry Road is still pending. Our thanks are due in no small measure to Mr. John Donnelly who again worked tirelessly behind the scenes on our behalf and to our barristers, Mr. Parker and Mr. Dreschfield who again put our case to the Inspector.

The Wivenhoe Wood

As promised, here is the correspondence with reference to the Wivenhoe Wood.

1. 12th May 1970: Messrs. Elwes, Wittey & Co. to The Secretary, The Wivenhoe Society.

Dear Sir,

Wivenhoe Wood

As you are aware, we act for Mr. L.W. Kemble, the owner of the above property.

In the Minister's decision refusing our Client planning permission in respect of his property, the Inspector drew attention to the fact, which is of course well known to each and every one of your members, that Wivenhoe Wood is private property. You will, therefore, appreciate that every person who enters the Wood without our Client's permission commits an act of trespass. In spite of the Inspector's statement as to the status of the Wood, which was quite unnecessary so far as your members are concerned, our Client has read in the local newspaper today that members of your Society, without any permission whatsoever, have again been into the Wood and committed new acts of trespass.

The Wivenhoe U.D.C. have agreed to erect a fence along the boundary of the Wood and the Council's land in Rosabelle Avenue and when this is done, our Client proposes to close the remaining access from Rosabelle Av.

Our instructions are to inform you that if any member of the public, including members of your Society, enter the Wood without our Client's permission, proceedings for trespass will be issued forthwith against them. Notices to this effect are being erected and you should forthwith notify your members.

Yours faithfully,

2. 26th July 1970: The Wivenhoe Society to Messrs. Elwes, Wittey & Co.

Dear Sirs,

re: Wivenhoe Wood

I have been asked by my Committee to reply to your letter to me of 12th May 1970. I regret the delay in sending this reply.

We do not think that there is any doubt that Wivenhoe Wood is private property, but it by no means follows that members of the public

know, the Inspector referred to numerous worn footpaths and your Client himself cannot be unaware that for very many years members of the public have enjoyed rights of way along these paths.

We are instructed that there is plenty of evidence to support a presumption of dedication at some time in the past. We are also advised that the steps which your Client proposes to take would not be effective to rebut this presumption. So far as this Society is concerned, your Client's intentions are noted with deep regret because it was hoped that it would be possible to co-operate with your Client to ensure the continuation of the public's rights, at the same time having full regard to your Client's legitimate interests as owner of the land.

Should your Client wish to reconsider his attitude, he will find the Wivenhoe Society anxious to co-operate.

Yours faithfully,

3. 31st July 1970: Messrs. Elwes Wittey & Co. to The Secretary, The Wivenhoe Society.

Dear Sir,

Wivenhoe Wood

We are in receipt of your letter of 26th instant.

Neither our advice to our Client nor his attitude in this matter has changed.

Yours faithfully,

A REMINDER

Here, again, are the meetings for the immediate future:

Sunday, 27th September, at Cedric's Garage, at 10.00 a.m.
Coach Outing to Audley End.

Tuesday, 20th October, in the Public Hall at 8.00 p.m.
A Talk by Mr. Denys Turbeville, preceded by
The Election of a New Chairman

November:

A Meeting in the Public Hall with two or more speakers from Colchester.

December:

A Convivial Get-Together when we hope to invite members of other local Societies.

Finally, before I close, I have great pleasure in telling you that our membership has climbed over the 100 mark. Our present aim is for 400, but this will do to be going on with.

Yours sincerely,

N. A. M. BUTLER