

HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary:
J. Scruton, 17 London Road,
High Wycombe, Bucks,
Tel: High Wycombe 25933»

NEWSLETTER NO. 5 - NOVEMBER. 1969.

We are nearly one year old and seem to be firmly established within the Town. There is no shortage of work to be done, and the following report will give you some idea of the wide compass of our activities undertaken in the past three months.

1. Membership.

Membership Secretary: Mrs. H. L. Wess, 67 Hughenden Avenue,
High Wycombe. Tel: H.W. 20718.

This is still rising slowly. We did not recruit many at the Wycombe Show, but our exhibit helped a large number of people to realise that we are in existence. We still believe that personal contact is probably the best way to recruit members and we look to all our present members to help.

Since the last newsletter the following organisations have become affiliated to us:

The High Wycombe and District Camera Club.
Central District Girl Guides.

Eleven Societies and local organisations are now supporting us. Other local organisations are interested in our work and members of your Committee plan to give talks describing the work of the Society. These arrangements are well in hand.

2. Conservation Areas.

As you will have seen the draft plans for High Wycombe have been published. The Society was asked to comment and our report received wide publicity. While welcoming the proposals, we felt that they were too confined and we have made a number of suggestions for expanding the Conservation Area. We have also suggested that other areas within the Borough should be considered, notably West Wycombe. We now await the final decision and publication of the plans.

3. Three Tuns.

We understand that the plans for re-development have been deferred and the Three Tuns has been reprieved - for the time being! We shall continue to keep a close watch.

4. Building at the Corner of White Hart Street and Church Square.

We have continued to fight for the retention of this building and it seems that there is a general feeling that it should be kept. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is supporting our plea. Recently the Borough Council has referred the problem to the County Council for a decision.

5. Pann Mill.

The County Planning Officer has asked for comments about the future use of Pann Mill site. The Borough Council have proposed a building which

combines a museum with space for commercial trade displays. We have proposed that the building should be used entirely as a public museum with other facilities, such as lavatories and a restaurant, included in one comprehensive and exciting building.

6. Third London Airport,

The Wing Aircraft Resistance Group is now gathering its forces for the last and crucial battle to prevent the airport being built at Wing, The last Inquiry will make a comparative study of all the sites and this is likely to last six months! The W.A.R.G, is hoping to keep its legal team "in the field", and for this purpose they may need a sum amounting to £30,000, If any member would like to help with a donation, or by displaying posters and literature, please get in touch with your Secretary,

7. Group Activities.

a. Outdoor Activities Group,

Convenor: J. Willson, 14 Gosling Grove, High Wycombe,
Tel: High Wycombe 25966,

A party of our members, with the help of the Downley Common Preservation Society, has recently cleared Kiln Pond at Downley, which had been neglected for a very long time, A great deal of rubbish was collected and the Wycombe R.B.C. took this away. Here is another eyesore turned into a treasure! Good publicity was given by the local press, both before and after the event,

Mr. Willson has carried out a survey of the Quaker Burial Ground and the adjoining Railway Place, This has become a terrible eyesore. We have made proposals to clear the area and create an attractive open space, with help from the Borough Council. John Willson's report made further proposals for the creation of a new community at Railway Place, with new homes especially for the older people. The scheme seems to be very attractive and we have submitted it to the Borough Council for consideration.

b. Historic Works and Buildings Group,

Convenor: J. Scruton, 17 London Road, High Wycombe.
Tel: High Wycombe 25933.

This Group has been very active. The report on the Conservation Area required a great deal of work and it has received favourable publicity. The Society was represented at the local Inquiry held on the 7th November to decide the fate of the Convent site, and the fine building of Park House in particular. We supported the local authority in defending this building and we are hoping that the application to demolish will be rejected.

In our dialogue with the local authority on eyesores and treasures, we have had a notable success! We have persuaded them to demolish the infamous Public lavatory in the Frogmoor as the first stage in a face lift for this area,

c. Publicity Group,

Convenor: Mr. E. Kearney, 37 Dean Close, Deeds Grove,
High Wycombe,

Wycombe Show. This Group, using a Display caravan loaned by two of our members, provided the display for the Wycombe Show. This consisted of a static display of pictures, posters and literature inside the caravan, and a mobile display of pretty girls wearing sashes who distributed literature throughout the day.

The Group has also given recorded interviews for Wycombe Radio and these have been broadcast over the Hospital's network. Close contact has been maintained with the local press.

Wycombe Festival. March, 1970. The Civic Trust has given the Society permission to use its famous display called "Who Cares?" as part of the Wycombe Festival next year. This unique exhibition had great success in London and we are very fortunate in having secured it.

To ensure its success at the Festival, we shall require the help of many members, both to help erect and dismantle, and most important to ensure continuous manning throughout the period.

We have secured the Guildhall for this important occasion and now look forward to hearing from any of our members who are willing and able to give of their time. Please write to Mr, Kearney if you are able to help.

Society Symbol. For some time we have wished to have a Symbol, representative of the Society, for use on our Correspondence and Newsletters. We launched a competition at the Wycombe Show, but the response was limited. If any of our members would care to enter there is plenty of time. Y/rite to the Secretary for an entry form, and who knows - you may be the "lucky winner", and collect a cash prize. It is an idea we are seeking - not artistic ability.

d. Trees Group.

Convenor: Mr. C, Peters, 49 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe.
Telephone: High Wycombe 33762.

For some time we have been engaged in a "battle by correspondence" with the developers of the Bellfield Estate, to make good a promise to plant trees. The present bleak appearance of the estate is well known. Recently we approached the Borough Engineer, as we felt that the local authority could do a better job. We are happy to report that a favourable response has been given by the Borough and it is hoped to make provision for these trees in next year's estimates,

8. Development Plan for High Wycombe.

For some years there has been a clamour for the revision of the Town Map. We have now heard that in accordance with the new Planning Act a Development Plan for High Wycombe is soon to be published by the County,

The proposals will be in draft form and the public will be invited to comment, not only on the issues included in the report, but also to draw the attention of the County Council to any other issues or solutions for

consideration in the final plan,

This is the most important future issue facing this Society and the townsfolk, since it rail affect ALL OF US IN SOME WAY.

All members of the Society should be prepared to play their part in the inevitable discussions and the drafting of proposals when the draft plan is placed before the general public.

REMINDERS.

We would be glad to hear of any problems within our scope which are troubling affiliated Societies or members.

Please help us to increase our membership. Heads count!

If you can help with any of our activities, even if the help is slight, please offer your services.