

THE JOHN EVELYN SOCIETY  
For Maintaining the Amenities of Wimbledon

4, Murray Road,  
Wimbledon,  
S. W. 19.

February, 1963.

To all Members,

1963 is the 60th anniversary of the foundation of our Society, so your Committee has tried to arrange a special programme to celebrate.

The Spring Lecture on Friday, 15th March, is being given by Mr. Peter Shepheard, B.Arch., F.R.I.B.A., A.M.P.T.I., F.I.L.A., an eminent architect and a leading expert on the subject of trees. He will be talking about the importance of trees in towns, the best kinds to plant, and how they should be protected. His talk will be illustrated by slides. This seems an appropriate lecture for a Society named after the author of "Sylva".

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at 8 p.m. on Friday, 10th May, at Chester House, by kind permission of Mr. H. T. Wheeler, Principal of Barclays Bank Staff Training Centre. It is an innovation to hold the Annual General Meeting in the evening, and it is hoped that this may prove a convenience to the younger married members who have been unable to come to this annual event on Saturday afternoons because of their children's activities.

Garden Party. On Saturday, 8th June, there will be a garden party at the Old Rectory, by kind invitation of Sir Russell Brock. At this party it is hoped to plant a cutting taken from the famous mulberry tree which still stands at Sayes Court, Deptford, the London home of John Evelyn, the Diarist. This ceremony is the result of a suggestion by the present John Evelyn, Vice-President of the Society, and it is hoped that he will be present on this occasion.

It may be necessary to restrict this party to members only. More details will be sent out in due course.

Annual Outing. It is proposed to hold the annual outing on Saturday, 6th July. Details will be published later.

The "Face-Lift". Members will be glad to hear that the Village Association is making good progress towards preparing a scheme for giving Wimbledon High Street and Church Road a face-lift. Two architects are being appointed and we hope that they will be able to present their proposals to the property owners in the spring.

Membership. We would like to celebrate our 60th birthday by a really significant increase in membership. We must eliminate the many misconceptions about the Society ("a drinking club, an exclusive coterie, antiquated preservationists", etc.) and impress on the public that anyone who is interested in Wimbledon, particularly a resident, ought to join.

Membership cont'd

The Committee is proposing to tackle one or two typical roads by delivering membership forms with prepaid reply envelopes asking residents to join. It would be most encouraging if a member in every road would take on the task of recruiting other members in the road in which he lives. This would not only benefit the Society, but also benefit the road. Any volunteers please communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

Obituary. Members will have heard with the deepest regret of the death of our former Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Veronica Williamson. We were glad to be able to pay tribute to her work for the Society at our last Annual General Meeting. We send our most sincere sympathy to her husband.

Excavations at Merton Priory. Last year the London Natural History Society and the Merton and Morden Historical Society carried out excavations on the site of Merton Priory. These excavations are to be continued this year from Easter to Whitsun, at weekends, and any members of this Society who would like to help would be welcome. They should contact D. J. Turner (CHE 3032) who will be directing the work.

Rutlish School. The Old Rutlishians' Association is preparing an official history of William Rutlish, Rutlish School and the Old Rutlishians' Association. Will any member who is able to help with information concerning William Rutlish please communicate with

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