

The John Evelyn

Museum at Village Club, Ridgway, S.W.19.

Society for maintaining the amenities of Wimbledon.

To all Members,

Our President, Lt. Col. Vivian Seymer, died in tragic circumstances on 7th January. For half of his three year term as President he had been bravely fighting ill-health, and his mark on the Society really began in 1960, when he became Chairman of the Executive Committee. His wide professional experience, his wisdom, drive, humour and friendship combined to make him the leader we needed at an important stage in our history. We shall miss him greatly.

A few days later we had news of the great tragedy which befell Col. Harris's family. So unexpected, and so startling in its suddenness, it was a violent personal grief to each one of us. Our hearts go out to him at this time.

SPRING LECTURE. An invitation is enclosed for the Spring Lecture in the Lecture Hall on Friday, 10th March. I understand that Lady Brunner is an excellent speaker, the subject is certainly important, and since it is anticipated that Council officials will be present, I hope we can look forward to a good, lively and fruitful discussion.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The A.G.M. will be held in the Town Hall (Council Chamber and Committee Room Suite) on Friday, 14th April. The Borough Engineer and other officers of the Council will be in attendance to talk on aspects of amenity, and the Civic Regalia will be on display. We have to thank his Worship the Mayor (Councillor Sir Cyril Black, J.P., D.L., M.P.) not only for the suggestion which led to this arrangement, but also for generously offering to provide refreshments after the meeting.

ANNUAL OUTING. Mr. Shields Forshaw is trying to arrange a coach outing to "The Vyne" (home of Anthony Lyttleton) near Basingstoke, and to couple it with a visit to Bracknell New Town, on Saturday, 10th June. "The Vyne", an early 16th century house, is not normally open to the public on Saturdays, and present arrangements are dependent upon special permission being obtained. Final arrangements will be notified later.

BUSINESS. The Annual Report is now being drafted and it will undoubtedly show that the past year has been one of active progress. Our greatest concern at the moment is the acquisition by the G.L.C. of properties in the Victoria Drive area. The methods being used to purchase good habitable properties for redevelopment, seemingly regardless of cost, of restrictive covenants, or of consultation with the local authorities concerned, is to say the least of it, questionable. I re-iterate my plea at last year's Annual Meeting for a much greater increase in membership, to give added weight to any representations we make to this powerful body.

W. MYSON

Hon. Secretary