

A told Bucks Valuation Panel on Monday it was wrong, to rate a shop and house he owned in Temple street as high when it was only used as a store for three motorcycles and tools. The premises, he said, were due for demolition.

Mr. A. Bishop said the property had been used as a store since Temple street Motors ceased to exist in 1962.

He also thought the rates were too high as the houses on either side of the property had been used as a rubbish dump, sleeping quarters for drunks and public lavatories.

But the Panel confirmed the rates at £109 (gross) and £66 (rateable).

Piles of clothing stolen from shop

A large quantity of clothing was taken from the premises of G. A. Wood Ltd, in Desborough-road, High Wycombe, last Wednesday afternoon — but left in piles behind the shop. The raiders had apparently been disturbed.

VILLAGE HAS MUCH TO KEEP

Society out to preserve

STAFF REPORTER

MORE and more amenity organisations are taking considerable interest in the new Civic Amenities Bill where it applies to the setting up of special conservation areas.

The latest is the Downley Common Preservation Society. This very active organisation is making a careful survey of the village to select buildings it thinks are worthy of including in such areas.

Already it has earmarked three centuries-old cottages in Littleworth-road which form the only remaining properties

once in the separate hamlet of Littleworth. One of them served as a bake house for many years.

The village smithy—still operated, but with modern equipment—on the edge of the Common has also been chosen. And, of course, it is intended to suggest that the Common itself is placed in a conservation area.

When the Society has worked out its suggestions in detail they will be submitted to Mr. Frederick Pooley, the County -Architect for his approval.

The Society has become affiliated to the Chiltern Society which this month launches an attack on High Wycombe Borough Council for its apparent lack of interest in conservation areas.

In its latest newsletter the Society, in an article headed "Wake up Wycombe," says the Council "do not seem to want to know about conservation areas."

Points out

It points out that when a member of the Eye Protection Society asked the council a few weeks ago for plans for such areas he was told the council had a road transportation study in hand and that until the results are available there could be no review of the town development plan.

Says the newsletter: "It is clearly time Wycombe Corporation officials read the Minister of Housing's circular on the Civic Amenities Bill. This quite clearly enjoins them to get on with designating conservation areas where they are most urgently needed because of pressures for re-development or because of neglect or deterioration, instead of waiting until they are ready to move on a broad front."

No mention

But when a member of the Chiltern Society later approached the council on the matter, says the newsletter no mention was made of the transportation study or new development plans. He was simply told conservation areas are a matter for the county council.

Says the newsletter: "True, only the county council can designate a conservation area, but that should not stop the Borough taking an interest."

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"Not to worry, sir, keep blowing. We're only using this type during Christmas week."

AMBITIOUS plans for the setting up of a £300,000 theatre and arts centre in High Wycombe have reached a stage nearer this week with the announcement that Wycombe Arts Theatre Association has appointed architects for the project.

JOHN WICKHAM

mittee of the Association. he has lived there ever since. An Association spokesman told me: "There were five main reasons behind this Watson and Coates is based in London and has many large buildings to its credit includ-

diary

the two of us in the play. It was a wonderful experience working with such a talented actor. I really enjoyed mak-

ing shirts and trousers. On Monday he was in London making one about coffee. Incidentally Mr. Sim, who recently celebrated his 67th birthday, does not live very far away — at Newnham Hill, Henley. He made his first stage

Forty-five of them over the age of 70 who live in the Heath End section of the village, around the pub, have each been given £1. The money has been raised during the year from weekly competitions at The Stag. "They have really saved

The Observer

43 HIGH STREET, MARLOW, 4321, THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 1967



WE wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It is a time of traditional family happiness; of contented parents and excited children; of good things to eat and drink and, for those families which still do it—of remembering His birthday in church.

But Christmas can also be the time of tragedy and unhappiness.

The record shows that deaths from burns in the home are likely to be five times more numerous during the Christmas holiday period than at any other period of the year.

An average of 100 people die like this in Britain every Christmas—many of them young children. In addition, there are scores of non-fatal fires resulting in damage costing from a

few pounds to many thousands.

Christmas decorations are rarely fireproof. Paper chains, plastic lanterns, tinsel, cotton-wool "snow" are all potentially dangerous.

We may not have a White Christmas this year—but need it be a Black one?

Although electric lamps for trees are much safer than candles, the bulbs can become hot enough to ignite the foliage; they should be hung clear of anything that can burn, especially cotton wool.

If in doubt about your own decorations, do consult the local fire brigade who know all the necessary safety precautions.

We wish you a Merry Christmas—and a safe one.