

however, already fixed for Friday 2nd February, and many members expressed dismay at the fact that hostels might have to close on a Friday night, so it appears that both events will continue on a separate basis. The financing of the Warden's entertainment for next year is still in doubt, but it was proposed that any extra funds needed should be taken from the profit on the Reunion, which this year amounted to £37.

This ended the business part of the Conference for the Saturday and the rest of the evening was taken up with a 105 minute "Audioscope" slide show, which several Group members had already seen. This is a system by which a series of slides are shown using two projectors to merge one picture into the next, with coupled dialogue and music. It was therefore rather unfortunate that the sound broke down twice.

The open forum, lasting from 9.15 - 10.00 a.m. on Sunday morning proved interesting and useful. The first motion for discussion was that there should be a drying room at all hostels, and the proposal is to go forward to Eastern and Southern Region that "wherever possible they improve or install adequate drying facilities". It was not thought practical to have a drying room at all hostels.

The next motion was that the Local Group Committee should organise a slide competition. The winning slide set showing local group activities to be kept by Regional Headquarters and loaned out to groups holding new members evenings and for publicity purposes. The conference however decided that most groups had their own slides and the motion was defeated.

A short discussion on whether the installation of electricity at Tanners Hatch is beneficial, and many points were put forward both for and against without any decision being made. In fact instructions have already been given for the work to be put in hand, so the days of the oil lamps at Tanners are numbered. I am sure that the next steps will be to install central heating, hot water and to make up the track-path to the hostel gate!

Diana Cunningham, the Y.E.A. Field Officer for Eastern and Southern Region, then gave a talk on her work, which mainly involves visiting secondary schools, giving talks on the Y.E.A. and introducing school journey parties to hostels. It was suggested that there should be more liason between her and local groups in order that groups may follow up a school visit by sending their programme to the school and possibly organising a special weekend.

The final business part of the Conference was to elect four members to serve on the Local Groups Committee for the coming year. Alan Johnson of Hornchurch Group and John Forrest of Bucks/Berks Border Group, were elected for Eastern Region, and Frank and myself