

We are now over 50 households strong! The Society is well launched, representative, and effective. Ten shillings seems a small price to pay for this opportunity to protect our village, but more members could mean smaller fees next year.

Meet your Planning Officers evening was held in April with over 50 present to hear Mr. Houseago outline the history of Sutton Poyntz and comment on planning problems. There was a fascinating display of old photographs of the village, kindly loaned by Weymouth Library, Dorset Evening Echo, many villagers and admirers of Sutton Poyntz from far afield. Maps were on view clearly showing where we must expect development and which areas are, so far, protected.

Mr. Saville explained the intended purposes of the island in the pond. A vote was taken whether to ask for the island to be removed immediately or whether to reconsider after the 1 year's trial suggested by Mr. Saville. The strong majority vote was to think again after one year, and Mr. Houseago assured the Society that if members were then opposed to the island, it would be removed.

The Ducks. Strong feeling was expressed when we formed for the return of ducks to the pond. They are now there, adding life to the heart of the village. The large brown ones purchased by the Society, the white ones given by Mrs. Green, 10 Littlemoor Road, the wild ones simply appeared. Mrs. Walden and David have taken a great deal of trouble over their care.

The Fish are at present boarded with the Parks Department to be returned when danger of oil seepage has passed

Litter bins were provided by the Parks Department - let us use them and encourage others to do so. The Parks Department have also laid a land drain near the new seat and have built a small retaining wall where flow tended to erode the bank.

The Social Evening on the Eve of the Hardy Festival was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed even by those who did the hard work - a real revival of village social life. Apart from the noble efforts of committee members Mrs. Branton, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Borbyn and Mrs. Johnson are to be thanked for the splendid supper table, and Mr. Corbyn for acting as M.C. While the purpose of the evening was to give enjoyment and to celebrate the successful launching of the Society, a small profit was made. Mr. Fullford, Mr. Townsend and Mr. Shires gave raffle prizes.

Notice Box. The Society's own notice box (for which planning permission was duly obtained!) is now on the wall of the Old Cart Shed. This elegant showcase was made and given by Mr. Hunt. It is there so that members are fully aware of their Society's activities.

Sign Post. The village is now on the map and the "Sutton Poyntz" sign finally located, our oldest members assure us, at the true boundary.

New Development. The Society will continue to exercise the statutory right which is possessed by any individual, to inform itself of new development. The Development Plan, and our map showing how this affects the village is available for any interested persons to see.

Bus Service. We have been trying to prevent any further curtailment of bus services. Evidence as to the need for a winter Sunday service is wanted by Mr. Branton.

Portland Power Station. There is danger that if the decision is taken to make this an oil-fired, rather than a nuclear station, Sutton Poyntz could be seriously effected by air pollution and sulphuric fall-out. The Society has, and will continue, to press for our greatest amenity, clean air, to be protected.

Mr. Harbour is to be thanked for making a most painstaking copy of his 'History of Sutton Poyntz' for the Society.

A membership card has been devised by Mr. Litschi and copies have been printed for early distribution.

Future Plans. There is strong interest in our village's history and a group is emerging with plans for a History Evening and with the intention of collecting memories and legends of the village for a written history.

Jumble Sale shortly (see notice box) intended as a money raiser with next year's subscriptions in mind. A chance for all to help. Please contact your nearest committee member so that your jumble can be immediately collected.

Guy Fawkes Evening. It has been suggested we could play our part in the national move to encourage community bonfires, to reduce the very real dangers of unsupervised fires and fireworks. If there is support for this idea we could have a splendid display.

These are the main activities of your Society so far. However, it should be realised that much of the value of an amenity Society lies in its very existence, making all concerned aware that a lot of people care about their village, and care enough to join together and work for its protection.