

August 1969

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY

Our first ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on March 18th. The Chairman's, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read, rules were discussed and adopted and the subscription lowered to 7/6d per household for this year. After refreshment, members saw the film, "Who Cares for England?" which showed glorious countryside and the desert of ugliness to which it can be reduced. Attendance (40 members) was not sufficient for a fair and representative vote to be taken regarding the Island in the Pond.

The Committee elected was:-

Chairman	-	Mr. L. SAMPIER	Vice-Chairman	-	Mr. L. SHIRES
Secretary	-	Mrs J. LITSCHI	Treasurer	-	Mr. E. SAUNDERS
		Mr. F. BRANTON			Mrs J. MORRIS
		Mr. N. BROWN			Mr. W. R. MULLINS
		Mrs HUNT			Mr. W. PHILLIPS
		Mr. F. LITSCHI			Mrs SHIRES

During May the committee visited almost every home in the village, members and otherwise, to take a vote as to whether or not the Society should ask for the ISLAND IN THE POND to be removed. Approximately 80% voted that we should not request its removal. It is hoped that effort can be found to plan planting of suitable rushes and grasses to improve its appearance.

MEMBERSHIP now stands at 65 households. Some of last year's most keen members have not remembered to renew their subscription. We would urge them to do so as none of the committee enjoys the job of asking for money!

THE DUCKS have been fed for the past year by Mrs Branton and we are all grateful to her for undertaking this chore. Mr. Saunders has agreed to take over the feeding for a spell and would be glad of suitable food scraps.

With Mrs Kimber's kind permission Mr. Saunders built a stile where the FOOTPATH leads from Plaisters Lane to the hills above. A map of footpaths is available and members are reminded that regular and careful use of these helps to keep them open.

Our Chairman and several members attended a Ministry PUBLIC ENQUIRY in May and spoke in support of the Local Authorities view that the establishment of a residential caravan in an area designated as of Outstanding Natural Beauty was contrary to local and National Policy; the point here being that once permission was granted for one it could hardly be refused for others.

We are attempting to have Sutton Poyntz considered as a CONSERVATION AREA under the 1967 Act, which while of course not preventing new development, would safeguard to some extent the character of the existing village core and development boundaries. Committee members continue to attend the necessary meetings.

A WALK THROUGH THE VILLAGE in June was enjoyed by several members of the Weymouth Civic Society and Sutton Poyntz Society. The gardens were glorious and we learned a lot about the history of our buildings from Mr. Wamsley Lewis. Mr. Lamb kindly opened and operated the mill especially for the occasion and Mr. Keegan kindly showed us round the waterworks and its little museum.

We have had helpful and encouraging correspondence with the LOCAL AUTHORITY on matters such as the island, pond etc. Now this avenue of representation is established, let us keep the effort and interest available to benefit from it for the sake of the visual value of the village.

No doubt most members already appreciate that this Society HAS NO LEGAL POWERS WHATSOEVER, that it can only function and have influence voluntarily and with goodwill. We exist to educate and inform ourselves, not to harass our neighbours and finally, matters always rest between the individual and the Local Planning Authority.

An (anonymous) local architect has most kindly offered to provide a service of FREE ADVICE AND INFORMATION to those contemplating re-fencing, building a garage or an extension, or making minor modifications to their property. No-one is obliged to use this service, nor to accept any suggestions made, but we all feel that practical help in selecting harmonious and economic materials and in visualising the eventual effect of our plans will be most gratefully welcomed.

Your committee continues to maintain contacts with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, the Weymouth Civic Society, the Countryside Committee etc. Our problems are national problems and these links are vital.

Any members interested in a conducted tour of WINFRITH ATOMIC ENERGY ESTABLISHMENT please contact Mr. G. Shires, Preston .

A second S.P.S. SOCIAL EVENING is being organised by Mrs J. Morris. Some members have offered help. Anyone willing to give a hand please ring Mrs Morris (Preston). The date is SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, Scutt Hall. No-one who came last year will fail to miss this very special village evening.