

This has been a momentous year for Sutton Poyntz. One of the first aims of our Society, now in its 5th year, has at last been achieved with the designation of the village core as a Conservation Area. Plans for any new development must in future be made known to the public who are now entitled to participate in planning.

During this year we will be building up our suggestions for the Conservation Policy and we have been assured that these will be considered carefully by the Planning team. Please make your ideas known to us.

The second achievement, a fundamental victory, has been in influencing the style of new development now taking place on the site of Old Bincombe Lane. The developer's original proposals, for uniform and essentially suburban type houses were eventually replaced by a plan for a more village-like group, with variety in size and type of house, sympathetic materials, and a site plan paying respect to this particular place and to neighbouring buildings and walls. A real effort has been made to produce an enlargement of the village which will compliment it and it is most satisfying to be able to look forward to seeing work completed, rather than to dread the destruction of views and walls and the ugly intrusion of yet more anonymous and characterless building.

Donations, which remain anonymous, from members who backed the commissioning of our architect's very fine job, have now almost totalled the sum spent. The whole village has to be grateful for the generosity and determination of donors.

The retiring chairman, who conducted our campaign with such zeal, was well enough to take the chair at our Annual General Meeting in April, and to report on the victories.

The Secretary, who as local Councillor was able to press forward our views, told us how the new development had pioneered a higher standard now to be applied to other village areas in the Borough. We have not only saved a little bit on Sutton Poyntz - we have helped to put an end to the destruction of other villages.

The Treasurer reported a bank balance grown sturdier under his care.

Members saw a brilliant film, "A Future for the Past" which showed conservation in the rest of the Country; the miserable effect of careless building and demolition; the glorious effect of pleasing buildings saved, improved, and complimented by respectful new ones.

Your Committee for 1971/72 is:-

Chairman	- Mr. G. Shires
Vice Chairman	- Mrs. J. Morris
Secretary	- Mrs. J. Litschi
Treasurer	- Mr. E. Saunders
Committee	- Mrs. Hunt
	Mr. Litschi
	Mr. Cox
	Mr. Bullen
	Mr. Fenton
	Mr. Pressly
	Mr. Brown
	Mrs. Shires
	Mr. Hackett-Jones
	Mrs. Brown
	Mr. Hailes

Other work during 1971/72 included:-

Increased safety of the junction of Sutton Road with Preston Road; warnings at either end of Plaisters Lane; prevention of seepage from the southern end of the pond, safeguarding footpaths, cleaning of river beds, etc. etc.

Our next task is to try to safeguard the state of the pond during the tourist season. The Water Authority's policy does not take cognizance of the effect of depriving the pond of all water during the summer weeks and the Local Authority has no control over the water supply, thus, stranded between two powers, the pond becomes a mosquito-infested expanse of mud which cannot be properly cleaned.

The pond is the core of the Conservation Area, the key to the charm of the village. No day passes without families coming to enjoy it - if it were kept clean and full it would give immense pleasure to visitors. Our aim is for a minimum, and quite modest, supply of water at all times excepting those of declared drought. Our conviction is that there must be some way in these times to secure this. The fact that the Water Authority may have no legal responsibility for the pond does not, surely, mean that it can ignore the destructive consequences of its actions. It is up to us all to insist that the problem be considered as a whole, not doomed by artificial boundaries of concern.

The History Group continues its researches and is working towards a booklet of the village, a pocket history, as well as the larger record. Each meeting adds to the picture of the past of this corner where we now spend our lives.

Social Events since Newsletter 9. The illustrated talk on Small Gardens last September was poorly attended. A great pity since this was a witty and imaginative presentation by Mr. Jones. Members saw the effects of garden planning, from e.g. the transforming of an ugly garage wall to a thing of living beauty, to the use of total concrete as a solution to gardening problems! Lots of valuable tips from an expert keen on gardens both great and small.

The Bonfire Night passed safely and enjoyably, organised by Mr. Pressly. Do members realise the extraordinary labour involved in transporting a mound of fuel to the bonfire site? Thanks to noble helpers and for the use of this customary site.

The Social Evening in November was an outstanding success. Scutt Hall, glamorised beyond recognition and bearing a magnificent supper table can never have seen such a night. Thanks are due to more people than can be listed and especially to Mrs. Brown who planned it all.

The Jumble Sale in March was also a bumper event thanks to the efforts of Mr. Idstchi and his band of helpers who advertised, collected, sorted and sold. Also to those who again gave generously of high-quality jumble. The profits go towards the "fighting fund" which we now realise we must have to hand.

It is now time for all members to pay the 35p Annual Subscription, surely a small price indeed for all that has, and is to be done. Committee members give freely of their time but all dislike knocking on doors to ask for money! They will be most relieved if you can save them the task.

Subscriptions please to committee members or direct to the treasurer, Mr. E. Saunders.