

It is pleasing to report that the Chairman's pleas in the Spring Newsletter did not go unheeded; the Society's A.G.M. was well attended. New members were enrolled on the spot, so the agenda was clearly of quite wide interest. Some of the issues discussed will be touched on later in this Newsletter.

1. First, the Society's new Committee:-

Chairman	- Lawrence Ingham	phone 83
Vice Chairman	- Gwen Loveland	83
Secretary	- Ken Knight	83
Treasurer	- Ernest Saunders	83
Margaret Brown	- phone 83	Joyce Litschi - 83
Jon Campbell	- 83	Bill Mercer - 83
Sue Dodge	- 83	Gladys Robinson - 83
Alwyn King	- 83	Eve Wilkinson - 83

Although all the above phone numbers appear on the Society's notice board, they are included in this Newsletter so that everyone can have them to hand. Please don't hesitate to contact any Committee member if you have observations about the running of the Society, suggestions for social events or worries about local environmental matters.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS - one of the most important matters considered at the A.G.M. was the question of subscription rates. It will probably come as no surprise that the meeting voted to raise these; after all, the previous rate had been held remarkably through years of inflation. Not only have the Society's running costs gone up but it was felt strongly that a healthy financial balance should be ensured for the future. In particular, we think that the Society needs a more effective reserve fund than the one we have at present which stands at well under £200. In the unpleasant event of our having to seek legal advice over some matter affecting the village the present sum would be totally inadequate. For these reasons the A.G.M. decided on the following new subscription -

50 pence per adult per household (£1 per household maximum)

A Committee member will be calling soon to collect subscriptions.

3. SOCIAL EVENTS - the first one is an old favourite - the SUMMER WALK, organised by Ernest Saunders. Date, Friday 26th June, walkers of all ages please meet (weather permitting) by the pond at 7.0pm. For drivers, the pick-up point at the end of the walk will be the Sunray at Osmington. Walkers will reach their destination via the higher route above the White Horse.

Autumn social gatherings will begin with a Coffee Morning - details will be announced soon. Keep an eye on the notice board.

4. There probably hasn't been a Newsletter since the Society was formed thirteen years ago which did not mention, directly or indirectly, the area round the pond. This letter will be no exception, not just to keep up tradition but because, as most people will readily agree, the pond and adjacent buildings form the very heart of the village. Despite the leak, the pond is not going through one of its periodic crises at the moment. We have simply to report the task of continued maintenance and cleaning.

5. THE MILL - as you probably know, the Mill owner has requested planning permission to convert the building into three flats and a shop.

Although there was great reluctance in the village towards this, no one could put forward a viable alternative. Slowly, therefore, opinion came round to the view that the owner's proposal was not unacceptable providing it was done with good taste, and the project "hedged around"

with some restrictions guarding against undesirable exploitation of the site in the future. For instance (a) the shop - to retain that area in the form of a museum, with display of the mill machinery: (b) to ensure the wise use and upkeep of the land and waterways.

To achieve the above, a number of local residents drew up an Impact Study, setting out some undesirable features of the owner's plan and ways of achieving the same object in a more acceptable way. This Study was fully supported by the Society Committee, and Weymouth Council informed accordingly.

On 16th June, the Planning Committee of the Council met to discuss the matter. I am told that they viewed the conversion favourably, but devolved the matter onto the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, and the Chief Planning Officer, to work out details and to consider what restrictions would be desirable in order that the Mill and its land should not in the future be despoiled.

The results of the Council's deliberations on this subject will be made known in a notice on the board as soon as possible.

6. TRAFFIC CONGESTION - a number of people in the village have become increasingly concerned about this, and we have been in touch with the Council. Although double yellow lines opposite the Ship Inn have been approved, Dorset County Council have not yet been forthcoming with the necessary money to complete the work. Problems of congestion in Sutton Road itself will also have to await a solution in times of less severe economic restraint. The Committee will raise both matters again at a more opportune time.

Your Chairman and Committee wish you all a pleasant summer, better weather, and happy holidays.