



# Sutton Poyntz Society

*Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Dorset Branch)*

How to begin a Newsletter in a way not used for some time? Maybe to plunge right in with details of the Society's Barn Dance. It will be held on Saturday, 8th October, at 8.00 pm in the Scutt Hall and will broadly follow the pattern of last year's successful "do", including a light supper. There will be a licensed bar. Tickets are £2, obtainable from any Committee member. As attendance must be limited to 100 people, early application is desirable.

Mention of this event leads nicely into comment on recent ones. The usual Summer walk took place on a most delightful June evening when 22 people and a few dogs enjoyed the stroll from the Black Dog, Broadmayne, to the Springhead, led by the indefatigable Ernest Saunders and Elizabeth. Later in June 40 people found a talk by Community P.C. Rick O'Shea and his colleague the Crime Prevention Officer most interesting and informative. P.C. O'Shea talked, among other things, about his tours of duty at Toxteth and other trouble areas and at Stonehenge. Both stressed the importance of not leaving windows, car doors, etc. open when unattended, of reporting unusual occurrences to the police, and of avoiding giving work of any kind to "cowboys".

Dorset cream teas on the lawn of Clyffe, Plaisters Lane, in August were enjoyed by over 70 people, including about 15 visitors. Although the afternoon was not one of the best weatherwise, at least the rain held off until the evening. Thanks are due to Richard and Paula Biss for allowing the Society the use of their delightful garden and to everyone else who contributed in many ways (loan of furniture and crockery, preparing the food and drink, organisation and so on) to the success of the afternoon. Thanks also to those involved in the June events. And wasn't it lovely to see Aviv Birch in circulation again?

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There are only a few items on the planning front. The Society's Committee met Peter Diment to discuss his proposals, submitted to the Council, for a new farm-house in Puddledock Lane and the re-siting of some buildings, with a little limited development. They felt the proposals would help to keep a viable farm in this pleasant area and would therefore be welcomed. They hoped that footpaths would be unaffected and that any development would be highly sympathetic to the environs, including the retention of that part of Puddledock Lane as a rural way.

As regards the green "wedge" between Preston and the village, the Chief Planning Officer of the Council received, as part of the recent consultation process, a comment to the effect that a limited amount of carefully designed housing would not be unsatisfactory and could provide some possible dedication of open space to the community. In line with his comments at our A.G.M, Mr Fletcher reported to the Planning Committee that he did not support such development - to allow some building and laying out of the area as formal open space would be to the serious detriment of the area. He thought that a joint scheme as part of the authority's environmental improvement work might, however, be looked at.

On the wider planning front, it has been reported that Dorset County Council are to review the area structure plan - covering such things as

housing, transport, shopping areas and employment - several years earlier than scheduled. How far this will affect Weymouth, and particularly Sutton Poyntz and Preston, remains to be seen.

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Following our representations, the Borough Engineer arranged for lengthy and deep potholes in Mission Hall Lane to be filled. True, no doubt, to form, within a few weeks the Lane was dug up for gas pipes to be laid, although generally not where the repairs had been done, and reinstatement seems complete now.

The Engineer has also said he will arrange for the accumulation of weed growth in the pond to be cleared later on. Notices asking people not to feed the ducks were placed by the Society round the pond earlier in the summer. These were not to spoil the enjoyment of children, but were designed to prevent considerable amounts of bread, etc. floating on the pond, which had caused some rat infestation. The Environmental Health Officers attended to the matter. It was suggested that we should keep the ducks off the pond altogether but as they have for long been an essential feature of the village scene and a great attraction to visitors from far and near we did not agree; the notices were a compromise and - touch wood - seem to have been quite effective.

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This year's Christmas/greeting cards caused a problem initially. Noel Tatt Ltd, printers of the cards in the past, said that this year they could do so only if each card and envelope were individually wrapped in cellophane, and that would make them expensive. We ascertained that other printers around the country could produce cards but all required a minimum order, ranging up to 6000, and with a substantial outlay of money. But eventually Tatts agreed to print our cards without the wrapping; they should be available by around the end of September, at a cost of 20p each, with envelopes. As usual, Eve Noden-Wilkinson will be pleased to let everyone have their supplies. The card is a colour view of the pond area showing the daffodils and ducks.

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The village has acquired some additional renown through the activities of the Sutton Poyntz Cricket Club. Well done, and may next season be a good one!

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To conclude - a tale told by P.C. O'Shea. A country bobby stopped a motorist one night, doing what was stated to be about 50 m.p.h. in a built-up area, and told him he would be reported with a view to prosecution. The motorist was more than a little annoyed - he said it was clear visibility, nothing about, and no problem in travelling as fast as others did; hadn't the police anything better to do? - what about tracking down the rapist who was generally believed to be in the area? "Don't you worry, Sir!" said the policeman, "if that man comes through here tomorrow night doing 50 m.p.h. I'll have he as well".

Oh well, Newsletters have to end somehow!