



# Sutton Poyntz Society

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

In his ode "To His Love" William Shakespeare wrote: "Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines", and later: "And often is his gold complexion dimmed". This summer, at least until Carnival Day, we've had plenty of the eye and little dimming, haven't we? How fortunate we are here that water is not a problem provided it is used sensibly.

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## HARDY 1990

All the events which the Society arranged to celebrate Thomas Hardy's 150th birthday year have been most pleasant. The circular walk from Lower Bockhampton, taking in Stinsford churchyard, took place on a beautiful June evening. Close on 100 people attended the "Evening" at Preston Village Hall on 14 July; two of Hardy's shorter plays were extremely well performed by members and friends, and the very tasty supper and lively barn dance were thoroughly enjoyed, with the band "Jump to the Sun" providing music admirably. And at the Dorset Cream Teas on the lawn of Sutton Lodge on 18 August 83 adults and some children spent a most happy afternoon, delightfully accompanied by Samantha with her violin.

Many thanks to all who helped with these events and to everybody who supported them so well. Those who could not attend missed treats! The thanks of the County Organising Committee for Hardy Year were expressed to ten Society members who assisted at the Town and Country Fairs early in June.

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## COMING EVENTS

A programme of talks has been arranged by the Society's Committee for the coming months, all in the Mission Hall (now Sutton Room), Mission Hall Lane, at 7.30 pm. They are:

- Tuesday 18 September - Mrs B Penny, MBE, on Christmas in the USA
- Tuesday 20 November - Mr Derek Dodge on his life as an airline pilot
- Friday 8 February - Mr Mick Shepherd resuming his illustrated rambles through this delightful county.

Light refreshments will be provided at these meetings. Do please note the dates now. We look forward to seeing you at this trio of first class talks.

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## DORSET BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Judging took place during June and July. Sutton Poyntz was visited by judges on a rare wet and dismal day and it was not too clear how much of the village was looked at closely! Results are expected to be announced in September. Grateful thanks to everyone who, in many ways, helped to tidy and beautify the village - not that it isn't beautiful already. Win or lose, the Society and the Sutton Poyntz Village Women's Institute found the exercise fascinating and beneficial. Hopefully the enthusiasm generated will remain, especially if the village enters the competition again in 1991.

## PLANNING

There's really no need to mention the main activity of the last few weeks. Demolition of the Riding Stables and construction on the site of three dwellings, approved by the Borough Council, will have completely changed the village scene. Many months have, however, elapsed since proposals by the Council for some realignment of the development boundary and by an agency on behalf of a developer were discussed with the Society at open meetings. Past Newsletters have contained information on the situation at the Stables - even when there has not been too much to report.

Recent applications to the local authority for planning permission for development in the village have been noted by the Society's Committee without comment. But they were not happy about one proposal to erect a fairly long side fence more than 5 metres high - they felt such a structure could become physically dangerous and would, if approved, create an unwelcome precedent.

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## LT CMDR BOB FENTON, MBE

A great many people from Sutton Poyntz and a much wider area of South Dorset were saddened to learn of Bob's death. He had been a long-standing and active member of the Society and (earlier) of the Committee, and was for a considerable time our representative on the Weymouth Civic Society. He was also intimately connected with a variety of other organisations. Seldom can the Crematorium have been so full, with a lot of mourners having to stand.

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## THE QUEEN MOTHER

Following the action taken on the occasion of her 80th birthday, the Society sent a message of congratulation and good wishes to H.M. the Queen Mother for her 90th birthday. The card of the village drawn by local artist Peter Toms some time ago was sent to her.

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## WELL DONE ...

.. to Tony and Joy of the Cartshed who have put in so much hard work towards its great improvement. We are also grateful to Joy for tending the newly-planted verge flower-beds nearby;

.. to Fredy Litschi on the successful sale of 1,000 copies of his booklet on Sutton Poyntz;

.. to the Village WI who came joint first in the collective entry at St Andrew's Gardening Club Show in July.