



# Sutton Poyntz Society

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

A happy New Year to all; may it be a peaceful one everywhere.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Society will be on Tuesday 24 March at 7.30 pm in the Springhead Pavilion. The usual business (including election of the Committee) will be followed by a talk by Mr D P Snook, Retail Managing Director of Devenish's - "Pubs aint wot they used to be". Light refreshments will be served. Do note the date and come along to express views, suggestions or whatever, and to listen to a fascinating talk by an expert.

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SOCIAL ACTIVITIES - an excellent programme has again been arranged - Thursday 27 February - a talk by Major W Greener, Chairman of the Dorset Hospice Trust, on the new Joseph Weld House, a care and hospice centre to be erected on land already acquired near Dorchester. This will be in the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane, at 7.30 pm.

Saturday 21 March - another popular Barn Dance - Preston Village Hall, 7.30 to 11.30 pm. The theme will be "Wild West", a welcome drink will be served and a delicious meal provided. The band will be Jump to the Sun, which was such a hit two years ago. Tickets, price £4.50, will shortly be available from Ron Birch, who is organising the event, or any Committee member.

Thursday 28 May is the evening for the customary Summer Walk, this year led by Richard Backwell. Start at Hardy's Cottage car-park at 6.30 - 6.45 pm for a gentle stroll of about 4½ miles to the Wise Man at West Stafford, for food as required. Arrangements for transport can be made as necessary.

Please note these events and support them.

Looking back to last November, the concert by the Casterbridge Male Voice Choir, organised by the Society at St Andrew's Church, was a sell out and much enjoyed. The Chairman of the Society handed a cheque for £516, proceeds of the concert, to the Chairman of the Appeal Fund for the new St Andrew's School.

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## PLANNING MATTERS

The talk by the Chief Planning Officer of the Borough Council at the Springhead in September was well attended. Mr Burgess spoke about planning problems and plans for the borough and for our area. He answered a variety of questions and said that here, as elsewhere in the past, he welcomed the existence of active amenity or civic societies to work with the planning office.

In late November the draft revised Local Plan for Weymouth was published by the Borough Council. A document of some 200 pages, it was examined by members of the SPS Committee individually and collectively, and comments were submitted to the Council. There is, in fact, a good deal in the Plan which is helpful and acceptable, notably the need to preserve the open space between Preston and Sutton Poyntz, and to allow back land filling only subject to strict conditions. The Plan also seeks greater control over caravanning in the area as a whole.

Comments have been submitted to the Chief Planning Officer on a number of planning applications received by the Borough Council, including proposals for (a) demolition of White Horse Cottage and its replacement by a new dwelling, (b) the erection of a 8m high TV aerial at Winslow Road to improve reception in this area, and (c) the erection of three dwellings on the late Mrs Bailey's land in Plaisters Lane.

Development of the Stables site is virtually complete; many favourable comments have been heard, along with one or two less so. And work on the dwellings on Puddledock Farm land is going ahead.

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#### GREETINGS CARDS

Over 260 of the Society's cards have been sold but there are still a lot remaining. They are suitable for many occasions and represent very good value in today's market. Obtainable from Eve Noden-Wilkinson, 1 Old Bincombe Lane, or Ken Knight, Millstream Cottage, Sutton Road, price 25p each.

#### THE POND

Never omitted from any Newsletter, perhaps not surprisingly in view of its importance in the village scene! Thanks to the Council for arranging for an accumulation of weeds in the water and by the edges to be cleared just before Christmas. The daffodils will soon be appearing, to add a touch of colour.

#### PUDDLEDOCK LANE

Representations have been made to the Borough Council that the street name-plate at the junction with Sutton Road should omit the reference to access to Sunnyfields - which is really now better approached via Seven Acres - and to add that the lane is not fit for vehicles.

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#### TAILPIECES

Ich verstehe nicht! - Many folk "did not understand" much, if any, German before they went to Fredy Litschi's classes for beginners last autumn. These very interesting classes, attended by those from 6 to 60 (or more), have resumed after the Christmas break; meet in the Sutton Room on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm and there is no charge apart from a contribution towards the cost of hiring the hall.

Be of good cheer! Even in these days of recession and sad difficulties for many people, it may not be too out of place to recall a few sayings of the famous in days gone by:

- 1801 - "I dare not marry; the future is so unsettled"- William Wilberforce
- 1806 - "There is little around us but despair and ruin"- William Pitt
- 1849 - "In commerce and agriculture there is no hope"- Benjamin Disraeli
- 1914 - "The lamps are going out all over Europe and we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime" - Lord Grey.

(Thanks to former Chairman Lawrie Ingham for the first three).

Things have a habit of getting better. So let us keep going well - including supporting the Society! In recent discussions with Councillor Brian Ellis and the Chief Planning Officer, both emphasised the importance of the Society being in existence.