



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

THE COMMITTEE

Membership for the current year is:

Chairman	...	Tony Bugler
Vice Chairman	...	Joyce Litschi
Secretary	...	Ken Knight
Treasurer	...	Simon Emblen
Membership Sec..		Joyce Litschi

Other members are Richard Backwell, Ron Birch, Clive Brown, Peter Jones, Richard Mecch and Maureen Morris. Peter Jones and Maureen Morris were newly elected at the A.G.M. when Dee Tebbutt gave up membership of the Committee because of pressure of other commitments. Thanks for her past services.

THE A.G.M.

It was a good meeting on 4 April. The Chairman's brief but comprehensive report on the year's work showed how active we have been in looking after the interests of the village and, in some cases, of a wider area. A villager said some time ago "If the Society weren't already there, it would have to be invented"; how true! After the formal business, Mr Jack de Carteret, a Master of Wines from Eldridge Pope's and an acknowledged expert, spoke authoritatively and amusingly about six red and white wines, producing samples which everyone tasted. This was a most pleasant interlude. A raffle raised £23.50.

VILLAGE PLAQUE

A small plaque, designed by students of Weymouth College through the good offices of Michael Drake of Sutton Road, has been placed on the small barn at Northdown Farm to commemorate Thomas Hardy's connection with the village.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As decided at the A.G.M, subscriptions to the Society are now £2 a year per household, with £1 for members living alone. This is the first increase in subs for very many years, during which time general costs have substantially increased. (However, it has to be said that our expenses are still comparatively small!) In addition, entries in the Britain-in-Bloom competitions have involved expenditure - on flowers, trees etc, as well as entry fees - and we have not had any major fund raising events, like barn dances etc, for some years, although we hope one will be held some time in the fairly near future.

So, membership of the Society, whose aims are to endeavour to prevent unnecessary and unsightly development and to maintain the beauty of the village, is still extremely worthwhile and important. Please pay your collector thankfully and cheerfully!

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our now customary SUMMER WALK will be held on THURSDAY, 15 JUNE. Once more organised by Richard Backwell, it will start at the New Inn, West Knighton, at 6.30 pm for

6.45 pm. The walk will be of 3-3½ miles, returning to the New Inn where bar meals are available. If transport is required, please speak to a Committee member.

Members of the Society living in Old Bincombe Lane are kindly hosting this year's DORSET CREAM TEA on SATURDAY, 27 JULY; tea will be served on the lawns at the western part of O.B. Lane; more details later.

Please make a note of these events now; we look forward to your support for what are always enjoyable occasions.

The whist drive held on 23 March was enjoyed by the folk present. It seems clear, however, that whist drives are not flavour of the month for members, apart from those held on most Mondays in the Sutton Room. Worth a try; you can't win 'em all!

THE MILLENIUM FUND

As the Chairman mentioned at the A.G.M, this Fund provides for financial assistance to enable special projects of community value to be undertaken. The Society is currently contacting several bodies about the possibility of another archaeological dig in the area of the Waterworks, where a most significant dig was held for some weeks in 1993/4 before Wessex Water constructed their new plant. The archaeologists involved are enthusiastic. Other ideas are in mind.

TRAFFIC CALMING IN PLAISTERS LANE AND SUTTON ROAD

Also at the A.G.M, a few members spoke about the excessive speed at which a growing proportion of motorists travel along these roads. This matter was in fact raised in 1992 by the Society with the Borough Council, who replied that unfortunately there were no funds for any traffic calming schemes. But both roads were included in the Council's list of thoroughfares where, after due implementation of prescribed criteria, such schemes might be considered; the absence of footpaths in these roads was certainly noted. Further representations are being made to the local authority, along with renewed representations about the provision of a footpath on the eastern side of Sutton Road between Verlands and Winslow Roads. Whether money is more easily available now ...!

AND FINALLY (as they say on News at Ten)... Please don't forget our entry in the BRITAIN-IN-BLOOM competition. We are one of eleven small villages from Dorset and counties westwards to compete this year. Our entries in 1993 and 1994 brought prestigious certificates from the Regional judges. Let's at least keep up the good work this year; ideally, let's do even better!