



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England

BARN DANCE, SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

Responding to many requests, the Society has arranged this Barn Dance in Preston Village Hall, with the well-known band 'Jump at the Sun' and an expert caller. Tickets are obtainable from the Social Secretary - Maureen Morris (835533) - or Committee members, price £7 each including supper and a free glass of wine or soft drink. A bar will also be provided. Do come and support what should be a most enjoyable and entertaining evening.

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

As you are probably aware, a joint group set up by the Society, the Victorian Street Fayre Committee and Sutton Poyntz Village W.I. has been considering suggestions for marking the Millennium. Discussions continue, but several proposals should be in place for the Millennium; they include:

- ** Commissioning a stone sign at the village entrance in Sutton Road
- ** Provision of a large Christmas tree, decorated with lights, to the North of the pond. The W.I. already has raised funds to buy the tree, which will be a focal point for carol singing in the run up to 2000, and it is hoped the Rector and a choir will be available to lead the singing
- ** A photographic exhibition recalling memories of bygone Sutton Poyntz, to be on display over the New Year period in the Mission Hall. Members are asked to look out any old photos and let Dave Caddy, Tony Bugler or the W.I. Committee know if they are willing to loan them for the exhibition.
- ** An appropriately bound book to be available in the Hall over the New Year period; all residents of the village will be invited to sign it
- ** Negotiations are well advanced with the Dorset C.C. Trees and Woodlands Officer and with Wessex Water to provide an avenue of oaks in the second field beyond Fox Cottage. It was hoped to use the first field but the County Archeologist objected because of possible future excavation there - the field is rich in archeological remains.
- ** Beating the Bounds on 1.1.2000 - Richard Backwell will organise the walk.

PLANNING

- (1) Four bedroomed house at the rear of the Mission Hall: The Society strongly objected to this application by St Andrew's P.C.C. and on 18 August the Planning Sub-Committee of the Council rejected the application by a unanimous vote.
- (2) Waterside Caravan Park: An application was submitted by the owners to WPBC to extend the period for use of the touring caravan area. The Society objected on the ground that this was a de facto extension of the caravan area and thus against the Council's local structure plan guidelines. Unfortunately, on the Chairman's casting vote, the WPBC Sub-Committee granted permission.

MISSION HALL

- (a) The Management Committee for Development of the Hall is continuing negotiations with the P.C.C. for a 30-year lease of the hall. It is hoped there will be a successful outcome of the negotiations, once the amount of land to be incorporated in the lease has been settled.
- (b) Meanwhile, anyone interested in helping with the cleaning of the hall, or taking over

responsibility for it on a voluntary or paid basis, is asked to contact Maureen Morris at the Mill (phone 835533).

VILLAGE SURVEY

Many members will have bought a copy of the survey recently produced by the Society; it is pleasing to report that well over 100 copies are now in circulation. Anyone still requiring a copy should please contact the Chairman, Mike Pressly, on 832535.

In July, Society representatives made a presentation of the survey to councillors and officers of the Borough Council in the Mission Hall. Richard Burgess, Director of Environmental Services, has prepared a report on the survey for the Environmental Committee of the Council, and a follow-up meeting is planned for the Council to give a formal response. One immediate suggestion made in July was that the Society should arrange a traffic survey to measure traffic flow between Sutton Road and Plaisters Lane, to provide an objective basis for further discussions on traffic calming. The first census was taken on 23 August from 7am to 7pm and the exercise is to be repeated on 11 October when the holiday period is over and the school term is well under way. Details of the data gathered, when analysed, will be published later.

THE POND AREA

Concern has been expressed by several members about the condition of the village pond, especially silting and the accumulation of other debris. Residents joined a working party led by Julia Allen to clean up the pond, and local Brownies tidied the surrounding area; thanks to all. These moves were not, however, designed to overcome some of the long-standing problems of silting or the improvement of flora and fauna in the area, so the advice and guidance of the Dorset Wildlife Trust was sought. A report has been received from the Trust but it is too detailed to be reproduced here; it does nevertheless contain many interesting and, in some cases, controversial recommendations - such as removal of the goldfish and limitation of the duck population, the proliferation of which is detrimental to other species on the pond. As the Society has no power to implement the recommendations, the report has been sent to the Borough Council, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency for consideration. Obviously, a great deal of discussion must take place before any changes are made to the management of the pond.

Ducks: If the ducks make life difficult for the other inhabitants and plants of the pond, there is at least a nutritious by-product they make available - their eggs! These are produced in some quantity; duck egg lovers and cake-makers can obtain supplies from Dave Caddy on 832595.

TELEPHONE BOX and THE SOCIETY'S NOTICE BOARD

Following our further representations, we are pleased to report that the telephone box in the village has been refurbished and looks much smarter. Thanks to British Telecom for carrying out the work.

Thanks are also due to Jack Noden-Wilkinson for his public spirited gesture in refurbishing and remounting the Society's notice board, which is on the Cartshed.
