

This Newsletter will be received by a goodly number of new members; welcome! We are sure they will help, with other members, to maintain the interest and effectiveness of the Society. We bid farewell to a few members who have moved or will be moving away.

* * * * *

Bus Services

Under the "deregulation" provisions of the Transport Act, changes have taken place in the local bus services. Southern National introduced the Shuttle services at the end of July, terminating (rather oddly) at Verlands Road. The Open-top service continues until the end of September, but after then there would apparently be no buses running to the Springhead. The Society made representations to S.N., stressing how some villagers rely on the bus for such essential things as shopping, collecting their pensions, visiting the doctor or chemist and find the uphill walk to Preston very difficult. S.N. said they would run a morning "shopping service" on Mondays to Fridays, leaving the Springhead at 10.28 and returning from the Statue at 12.50, until 26 October. They could not meet our request that a few of the Shuttles would run to the pub or the Sutton Road/Plaisters Lane fork, despite this adding literally only seconds to the journey time.

We also took the matter up with Dorset County Council. They have been seeking tenders for a more permanent service between Sutton Poyntz and Weymouth. As this is written (late August) it appears that Weybus will be making about seven journeys on the village/town route, from fairly early in the morning to late at night. As more details become available, they will be posted in our Notice-board by the pillar box - where previous details have in fact been displayed. County Councillor Tony Dogdson, a member of the County Council's Planning and Transportation Committee, is acting in our interests at County Hall.

The future of O.A.P. concessionary fares is unclear, although there is reason to hope that they will continue in some form. Local authorities' contributions to operating costs are important considerations.

[see addendum]

* * * * *

Social Events

This summer's events have been well supported. More walkers than for some years went on the leisurely stroll to Osmington on a delightful June evening; over 80 members and friends attended the "Evening" at Little Acorns in July, when slight rain did nothing to mar the enjoyment; and some 70 folk partook of Dorset teas on the lawn of Bellamy Cottage on a sunny August afternoon. Our thanks to Mr Ernest Saunders, the tireless walk-leader, and to Mr and Mrs Birch and Mr and Mrs Mercer and their bands of helpers for all their hard work.

Please make a note of forthcoming attractions:

Friday, 3 October - An old-fashioned Beetle Drive at 7.30pm in the Pavillion at the Springhead. Landlords Mr and Mrs Watts have kindly undertaken to provide refreshments. Tickets, only 50p, from Committee members.

Wednesday, 5 November - Mike Watts hopes to organise another Fireworks Evening at the Springhead. Details later.

Friday, 7 November - A 1960's Evening at the Ship Inn, Preston, at 7.30pm, with a buffet, entertainment and dancing - a convivial get-together. Ron Birch is kindly organising this event. Tickets shortly from the Committee, price £2.50.

In January there will be a talk on Music, with records and tapes. More details nearer the time. An interesting and absorbing evening is assured.

Social events have taken off again, so let's maintain the momentum and support the coming ones. We welcome suggestions for anything else that might be tried. In fact, the Committee are considering a suggestion that the Society arrange an Open Gardens weekend - Saturday and Sunday afternoons and early evenings in June or July - like those held at Cerne Abbas, Langton Herring and elsewhere. The crucial thing, of course, is the availability of 12-15 gardens for visitors to look round; so, please, those of you with attractive or interesting gardens (and there are a lot) do tell whether you would be agreeable to participate. The idea would be to make an overall charge of, say, £1, the proceeds going to a named charity. Light refreshments would be available and stewards provided. This would be a "first" for the village and, if it is to take place, arrangements and publicity need to be undertaken in good time. Weymouth itself has looked exceptionally beautiful this season, with lovely gardens and delightful floral displays - the Society has congratulated the Council and the workpeople concerned. Can we endeavour to make a Sutton Poyntz Open Gardens weekend a similar attraction?

* * * * *

History of Sutton Poyntz and Preston

Mr Fredy Litschi is working on this. If anyone has old photographs, articles, press cuttings, etc., he would be pleased to borrow them for a few days. He would also welcome some help in conducting a survey of the area - population and so on. Please contact him at Camelot, Surrton Road or on 83 . . .

* * * * *

Christmas Card

The Society's Christmas card will be a colour print of the pond area in winter. The printers have promised delivery by early September and Eve Wilkinson, 1 Old Bincombe Lane (83), has again vallantly agreed to sell them, price 15p each, including envelopes. They are a Noel Tatt limited edition.

* * * * *

Committee Membership 1986/7

Chairman:	Cllr Joyce Litschi, Camelot, Sutton Road
Vice-Chairman:	Matt Rosekilly, 10 Old Bincombe Lane
Hon Secretary:	Ken Knight, Millstream Cottage, Sutton Road
Hon Treasurer:	Eve Noden-Wilkinson, 1 Old Bincombe Lane
Hon Social Sec:	Gwen Loveland, Terra Mia, Plaisters Lane
	Beth Bentley, Fox Cottage, Sutton Road
	Ron Birch, Little Acorns, Puddledock Lane
	Don Brierley, 3 Sutton Close
	Cathy Pressly, The Rest, Silver Street
	Ernest Saunders, 97 Sutton Road
	Jean Smith, Bramble Patch, Plaisters Lane

Mr Bill Mercer did not seek re-election to the Committee at the A.G.M., feeling that the time had come for him to retire gracefully. The members present expressed warm thanks to him for all he did for the Society as Chairman for four years.