



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

THE SUTTON ROOM (aka MISSION HALL)

Members are probably aware that there has been some doubt about the future of the Sutton Room, but this seems to have been resolved and happily it will remain available for community use. It is anticipated that considerable costs will be incurred in carrying out necessary repairs and refurbishment. The adjacent cottage and garden are to be sold.

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THE POND AND THE WILLOWS

Weymouth & Portland Borough Council Parks Department has recently carried out its promise to dredge the pond and prune and thin out the willows.

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DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL STRUCTURE PLAN

The Society was represented at the 'Examination in Public' held at Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth. The Inspector's final report has now been published and we are pleased to note in it the reference to the contribution made by our Chairman to the heated debate about the need to control the urbanisation of the county.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

In spite of strongly worded objections from the Society, the Borough Council has decided to grant planning permission for two proposals: (i) a farmhouse to be built off Puddledock Lane and (ii) vehicular access to the field near the junction of Sutton Road and Preston Road.

In respect of the farmhouse, the Society felt that by granting permission the Council would be opening the door to further development in that area. In defence of their action, the developers claimed that the house was necessary to accommodate a herdsman once the surrounding fields were returned from their present use to pasture. As the plans show a four bedroomed/two bathroomed house, it is likely that there will be a flood of applicants for the job when it is advertised!

The application for vehicular access at the top of Sutton Road was a retrospective one, as the work had already been carried out without planning permission. The Society objected to the proposal, supporting local residents who were opposed to the plans; it was also felt that the access was at a dangerous point near the junction. Apparently the planners have agreed to the access remaining but have restricted it to agricultural use only.

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TRAFFIC CALMING

Pressure has been kept up on Council representatives to do something to alleviate this serious problem, but so far without success. In a recent exchange of letters with Councillor Weaver, it has been stated again that the problem is one of funding and split

responsibilities between the Borough and County Councils. Councillor Weaver has promised to continue to seek a way of obtaining a satisfactory outcome.

An interesting suggestion in his latest letter is to designate Plaisters Lane a "green lane", as used in Jersey, with a speed limit of 15 m.p.h. Please make every effort to press our elected representatives to do something about this problem as a matter of urgency.

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COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY

In the light of comments in the preceding paragraph, the Committee of the Society was pleased to receive a letter from the Chief Executive of WPBC expressing the hope of setting up a series of meetings to enable elected members and officers of the Council to meet local communities and societies like ours. The Society has confirmed its interest in these proposals and awaits developments.

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ELECTRICITY CABLES

Southern Electric's decision to renew existing overhead lines prompted the Society to ask the company if the lines could be replaced with underground cables. In response, the company stated:

"Replacing the overhead lines with underground cables is more expensive - about three times the cost. Because locating faults in underground cables in rural areas are (sic) more complex, the delay in restoring supplies to our customers is extended. Undergrounding (sic) does not therefore always provide the best solution to network reliability".

So it would appear that we will have to put up with overhead lines for years to come.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS

An official 'dig' was sponsored by the planning authorities at a site at the rear of the Springhead, running through to White Horse Lane. A brief summary of the report on the site indicates that, in addition to early modern and recent disturbance, there is evidence of Roman activity from the first to the fourth centuries. A few sherds of Iron Age pottery were also found.

Two "unofficial" digs involving minor construction works at 'Wyndings' and 'Cob Cottage' have uncovered human remains, believed to be from the Roman era of occupation.

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BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The Committee of the Society took the decision not to enter the B-in-B contest this year. After a number of years ending as runners-up, the Committee felt that to gain the top award we would have to mount floral displays inappropriate for the village. However, the Society will still continue to promote the care of Sutton Poyntz and its environment.

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DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

The Society was pleased to make a small contribution to the sponsorship of Elisabeth Heathershaw and Natalie Rosekilly (who live in the village) to help them undertake their residential section of the D of E Gold Award. This consisted to a month at sea, sailing from Dakar in Senegal to the Azores. The girls have promised to talk to the Society later in the year about their experiences.

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VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE 1996

Total raised was £6,950.91. Expenses were £1,670.05 so the profit was £5,280.86. Of this, £180.86 has been retained for initial expenses for the 1998 Fayre, leaving £5,100 distributed - £1,700 each to the nominated charities which were Water Aid, the Joseph Weld Hospice and Breakthrough. "Village" stalls raised an unbelievable £4,765.76!

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TOADS

A member has asked us to draw attention to the plight of toads as they try to cross roads, in particular Plaisters Lane. Road surfaces are littered with their corpses; it would be kind of you, if you see any trying to make the crossing, to help them on their way to the verges!

VILLAGE DUCKS

For the second year, the ducks have kept themselves right through the winter by the sale of their eggs by Jim and Julie at the Springhead - but only just! Dave Caddy, our Duck Warden, says that now there are only five ducks (and three drakes), and there are five visitors in the shape of wild mallard who realise they can get a good breakfast at the pond, this situation may well shortly change. We could do with three or four more ducks (not drakes), so if anyone is looking for a home for spare stock, please contact Dave on 832595. And please go on buying the eggs, usually available at the Springhead at weekends.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 20th March - Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane, 7.30 pm

PC Rick O'Shea, our Community Policeman, will discuss Crime Prevention and other crime-related issues.

Thursday 17th April - Sutton Room, 7.30 pm

The Society's A.G.M, followed by Christopher Pope (Chairman of Eldridge Pope & Co plc) speaking about his family connection with Sutton Poyntz and other reminiscences.

Please note these events now, and do support them.

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