

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY

The Society was formed on 5th March 1968 and is approaching its anniversary. The first Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th March, 7.30 p.m. at the Mission Hall. If you feel your efforts have been worth while please attend, bring suggestions, criticisms and nominations for the 1969 committee. The Society cannot continue as a matter of course, only with renewed membership, lively support, and a willing committee. We would suggest that before making nominations you make sure the nominee is willing to stand, able to attend most committee meetings and is prepared to share in chores and activities. The amount of effort is very slight if shared. 1969/1970 subscriptions will be taken at the meeting.

On Friday, 28th February, 7.30 p.m. at the Mission Hall, Mr. E.J. Ricketts, Deputy County Architect is giving a talk on the village. Each of us has differing notions of what is valuable to the village, what improves and what mars. We are most privileged to have Mr. Ricketts' guidance, criticism and inspiration. Please note this date NOW.

Recent Activities

1. The Jumble Sale in November, was highly successful. Most members gave jumble, much of it of exceptionally high quality. Several members worked hard on the day. It was great fun and over £14 was raised which could reduce 1969 membership fees to an amount not beyond the reach of any household.

2. Guy Fawkes Evening. This was intended as a contribution to the national move to encourage community, rather than individual and unsupervised bonfires, on grounds of safety. It seems we in fact revived a village custom. Mr. Saunders kindly arranged that the huge bonfire was on the traditional spot. With each family contributing fireworks there was a splendid display and far less risk to thatch, animals, and children. Thanks to members and the gallant band of children who collected fuel.

3. Portland Power Station. A small sub-committee is working through the technical information, so we may have a voice, and an informed voice, if and when there is a Public Enquiry in favour of nuclear, rather than an oil burning power station. Our clean air may be at stake and this is a matter of vital concern and only a representative and informed Society can hope to carry weight.

4. The Countryside Act, 1968. The Sutton Poyntz Society was invited, along with other established organisations, to send a representative to the County Hall meeting which set up a Countryside Committee. Mr. Sanphias has ensured we will be informed regularly as to the working out of this important Act.

5. Planning Lectures. A committee member attended a series of 10 lectures by the County Planning Department. The course provided a unique opportunity to meet Planning Officers, to hear of the possibilities for and limitations of the planning framework. It was heartening to find that generally our concerns are also the concerns of our County Planning Officers. The lectures emphasised the increasing need for public participation in planning matters. The new 1969 Town and Country Planning Act depends for its working upon a public that is alive to questions of design, planning and amenity. The future years should see planning authorities and the public in creative participation over the place in which we spend our lives.

6. Our Footpaths, promptly marked by the local authorities under the 1968 Countryside Act, are now marked on a map which will be on display at future meetings. Some valiant members have even tried to walk the paths! We hope that increasing use will improve the passage.

7. The Pond. The retaining wall, built we are happy to see in natural material and harmonious style, by the Parks Department is designed to improve cleanliness of the pond.

8. The Ducks. Mr. Litschi has kindly obtained a second duck house as quarters were cramped. Mrs. Branton continues with what is probably the hardest chore of feeding them and would, we understand, be grateful for suitable food scraps. Mr. Saunders took over the other formidable task of getting them housed each night, after it was reported that members were out at midnight in their dressing gowns trying to protect the ducks from lurking foxes.

9. The Island. A vote is due to be taken at the Annual General Meeting on its presence in the pond. Come and record your view.

10. The Society Rules have been drawn up, tentatively, by your Chairman, a copy is enclosed, comments at the A.G.M. please.

11. The Osmington Society thrives. We hear that, among their many activities they are to clean the White Horse, have helped to obtain a grant from the County Council to save a thatch and have raised a large sum themselves for this!