

February, 1970.

The 2nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on FRIDAY 13th (!) MARCH at the Mission Hall. Some of the existing committee members are willing to serve again in order that the work of your Society shall continue. However, some of us would welcome a break and look forward to nominations from members willing to give ideas and a little of their spare time. The Society cannot continue without the support and interest of members and additions to the Committee. PLEASE REMEMBER THE DATE - FRIDAY, 13th MARCH.

CONSERVATION Representatives from our small Conservation sub-committee were most kindly received by Mr. Scutt, Senior Planning Officer at County Hall in December. The County intend to consider this village and others as possible Conservation Areas under the 1967 Act, and will be making visual surveys. The intention of the Act is not to "freeze" an area and to prevent all development and change, nor to add to the already complex legislation - rather to take a good look at each area so that the existing laws and provisions can be related to the particular qualities which make up its unique character; its difference from any other place. Mr. Scutt has invited members to pass on their views through the Society. For example, it has already been suggested that some permanent policy in regard to minimum flow of water through our pond and rivers might be worked out and written into a plan for Conservation. If achieved this could mean that in high summer, when we have most visitors, the pond could have sufficient flow to keep it attractive and healthy. Obviously a valuable suggestion - others are welcome.

We are all delighted to know how much the County Planning Dept. welcome our efforts; that they know the village and share with us an appreciation of its charm. It may be possible to arrange for a speaker from County Hall to talk to members about Conservation later in the year.

THE POND We understand the Borough Engineer has in mind the problem of seepage from the south western end of the pond. Our Secretary has written recently reminding him of our concern over this. Although there is room for improvement a glance back over old photographs shows how much better the pond now looks than at certain times in the past, and how its condition changes the whole aspect of the village.

THE DUCKS We are pleased to see an increase in population. Many thanks to Mr. Saunders who has tended the S.P.S. ducks over the past year - a real chore.

FREE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICE We remind members that a real friend of the Society has offered "consultation without pressure" to those wanting to visualise how their building, extension, fencing etc., will appear when complete. His expert knowledge of the sometimes bewildering variety of materials and designs is invaluable.

ROADS The committee has been active over dangers in Plaisters Lane and at the junction of Sutton Road with Preston Road. A street sign to read "Puddledock Lane leading to Sunnyfields" has been promised by the Local Authority for that junction with Sutton Road.

THE SOCIAL EVENING in September was again a great success, thanks to the tireless efforts of Mrs. Morris. While not intended to make a profit, the social paid for itself and gave a special opportunity for members to join with others who share their love of our village. A most pleasant atmosphere, excellent refreshments and the unveiling of a witty cartoon by Mr. Shires. Thanks to Mr. Meech, Mr. Townsend and Mr. Shires for generous raffle prizes.

TREE CONFERENCE A one day course organized by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England was attended on our behalf by Mr. Litschi. Many organisations and authorities co-operated over this. Mr. Litschi brought back to us a full report and several informative pamphlets. There is no doubt that Sutton Poyntz could be enhanced by judicious tree planting - suggestions please.

GUY FAWKES NIGHT Many of us have become more aware over the past year of the terrible dangers to children, animals and property from fireworks. While it cannot ensure safety, an organised communal fire does reduce the risks. A single, big fire is also more fun. Thanks to Mr. Saunders who loaned the site (and picked up all the rusty nails afterwards!); to the children who gathered rubbish and to parents who took turns in lighting fireworks. Hot dogs and onion were served while we enjoyed a huge fire and a great pyrotechnic display.

VISIT TO WINFRITH in January. Some 20 members and friends enjoyed a tour with lucid explanations by experts of the fascinating work and equipment which we saw demonstrated. Members were also impressed by the care taken in design and siting of buildings, tree planting, etc., and by the meticulous safety precautions.

We have had enquiries from BROADWEY SCHOOL Historical Society and hope to arrange for them to visit the village this year.

Miss N. Holmes, Archivist from the County Records Office is to speak on Friday, 20th February, Mission Hall, and will relate her special knowledge of historical records to this area. (This may have taken place before we go to press).

THE OSMINGTON SOCIETY goes from strength to strength. Among their many impressive activities they have undertaken the cleaning of the White Horse. There are rumours they may hire an aeroplane for Osmington members to see their village and homes from the birds-eye-view!

THE NOTICE BOARD Members will, of course, appreciate that it is not possible with our limited effort for notices of each event to be posted to every individual house. However, every date is posted in the notice case and usually advertised by posters. You will not miss activities if you keep an eye on the cartshed notice board.

Our thanks to members and friends of the Society who, while not mentioned individually here have contributed in so many ways during the 1969 - 70 year.

A final reminder of the A.G.M. on Friday, 13th March and of the importance of full attendance and a full committee next year.

MARK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

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