

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 7, February, 1971

Your Village Society continues to thrive. We have a very good membership for such a small area, a reflection of our care and concern and the depth of the roots we all have in our community, whether newcomers or older residents. We look forward to welcoming recent new members at two forthcoming events:-

On Friday, 19th February, 7.30, Mission Hall, we will be privileged to have our local Archaeologist, Mr. W.G. Putnam, give us his theories about the ancient origins of Sutton Poyntz. An opportunity for us all to have our eyes and imaginations opened to all the signs, which still exist, left us by the first residents of all. All welcome, members or otherwise, to listen and join in discussion.

On Friday, 19th March, 7.30, Mission Hall we come to present day concerns when Mr. Scutt, Deputy County Planning Officer, will kindly talk to us about the 1967 Conservation Act in relation to Sutton Poyntz. We are all anxious that the hard pressed County Department should find it possible to survey the village as soon as possible so that Sutton Poyntz may come under the protection of this act, for the benefit of residents, visitors and future generations.

There have been a number of events since Newsletter No. 6, all well attended and certainly enjoyed.

Tea on the Lawn, with Mr. and Mrs. Morris of Bramble Patch, was a new and very bright idea. We hope another host will come forward next summer, for another equally glorious sunny day.

The 1970 Jumble Sale produced generous supplies of high quality jumble and helpers, and a satisfying profit was made to strengthen the funds.

Bonfire night, coinciding with the dustmans strike, brought a good blaze. The committee feel strongly that the traditional village bonfire is safer than numbers of separate fires, and provided enough willing hands can be found next year, we hope this can continue.

The Social Evening, held this year in a cosy private room at the Springhead Hotel, ended with us all singing Nellie Dean, most tunefully, around the piano.

Your committee were challenged to a skittles contest in January, by the committee of Osmington Society. We were badly beaten, but enjoyed ourselves so much that we hope to see this extended to a tournament for all. Osmington village, like this one, feels the need for the renewal of informal community activities.

The business of the Society has continued and we maintain our important links with Weymouth Civic Society and the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Your committee has been active on:-

Road dangers at the junction of Sutton and Preston Roads, and in Plaisters Lane. Incidentally, members may do well to note that Plaisters Lane is no more than 9 feet wide at one point, 9 to 10 feet in several others. Road users have no adequate warning of the type of road. Luckily the number of accidents in the Lane have been minor ones.

The Pond, especially concerning seepage from the southern end. It is not yet possible to judge how effective are the measures taken by the Local Authority.

Public Rights of Way will become increasingly important in the future for essential recreation. The Society can play a part in safeguarding and preventing the misuse of this vital heritage.

Tree Planting, which it is hoped can take place within the framework of future Conservation. There have been several kind offers of trees.

Christmas Cards. We have all admired those produced by Osmington Society and have found these elegant cards particularly welcomed by friends abroad. But we want one of our own village and are working on possibilities.

The History Group, under the leadership of Mr. Litschi, has already begun patient research into all available records. Have you heard tell of a village cross? Or the old manor house? Where did the Chapel of Ease stand? How old is your own house and what relics of the past have you found in your garden? Any villager who has memories, theories or old photographs and records that they would consent to loan so that note may be made of them, would be adding to the existing material now being saved from extinction.

The 1971 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is provisionally booked for Friday, April 16th, 7.30, Mission Hall.

We have had a stronger committee this year, but all feel it is important that the responsibilities should circulate, and membership be made more real by participation and sharing.