

October 1973

NEWSLETTER NO 12

A browse through the Society's archives reveals letters going back to February 1968 about the pond. Throughout these 5 years the files have grown thick as we have reiterated the conviction, expressed so strongly when we formed, that our pond is of great visual value; that it should be maintained in a clean state with a reasonable head of water; and that there should be no gilding of the lily in the form of inappropriate and "towny" decoration. All is not perfect yet but this summer the Local Authority scheme to keep a small supply of water running through has prevented the worst horrors of drying out, even during such a good old fashioned summer as this. Much of this water is lost through seepage but we understand a proper attempt is to be made shortly to deal with that problem. The island, the horrified reaction to which brought the Society into being, is to be removed. Your Committee feels strongly that it was misconceived, has always been an untidy and unnatural eyesore, and that without it the uninterrupted reflections, which show well in pre-island photographs, can have full play.

Members were disconcerted to see large "Keep Out" notices sprouting up around the Mill. Enquiry revealed that Mr Meech was instructed to erect these as the Water Board were concerned over responsibility and danger to children. As the only alternative would seem to be fencing in, the notices have to be accepted, but there is no doubt that there is many miles of waterway in Dorset as yet not festooned with warnings.

Many members rang us about larger notices at the edge of Caine Down Golf Course. The Golf Club Secretary received our enquiry with every sympathy and had the notices, intended only to be temporary, removed.

The proposed redesignation of $\frac{1}{8}$ acre of land behind Malt Cottages is worrying us. It seems this proposal, to add $\frac{1}{8}$ acre to a site already scheduled for development is seen as a means of dissuading the developer from placing dwellings on a knoll within the site. Your Committee is very anxious about this most unusual step and concerned at the loss of even such a small amount of "white" (not for development) land. Redesignation necessarily involves proper advertising and we are at present making thorough enquiries into the issues involved so as to make considered representations when the time comes.

After complaints about the state of the public footpath to Bincombe, Committee members, with the full co-operation of the landowner covered the walk one Sunday morning. Mr Galpin can now give clear directions as to the true footpath. We are sure all members are aware of the importance of respecting the landowners crops and of using our paths with care and discretion so as to minimise damage while exercising rights.

Happily no ladies strayed on the midsummers eve Ladies Walk to Osmington, gallantly escorted as they were by Mr Earnest Saunders, and impatiently awaited at the Sunray by their spouses. Some walkers even demanded to retrace their steps home at the end of the evening and Mr Saunders did not refuse them.

Tea on the lawn was this year at the kind invitation of Mrs McDonald at Smithy Cottage. The weather was not unmixed but the afternoon was very much enjoyed by all, and we are grateful to hosts and helpers for continuing this event which has a special Sutton Poyntz flavour.

FUTURE EVENTS

Guy Fawkes Night - Monday November 5th, by kind permission of Mr Saunders. Helpers please make themselves known to Mr Mike Pressley. It is hoped to rig the Bonfire on Saturday 3rd November.

Sutton Poyntz Social - on November 17th, 8pm, Scott Hall. Tickets in advance from Mrs Brown, Cobb Cottage. Our social evenings are now famous so come along and have a village style night out.

In the pipeline for the New Year are, we hope, an evening of Victorian Music and a show of pre-war film of Sutton Poyntz.

Xmas Cards - this year an exquisite print, unearthed by Mr Litschi, of the pond and cottages. In supply soon. Copies of last years "Old Mill House" are still available from Camelot.

Caroling - It is proposed to hold a candle-lit 'carol gathering' in and around the village on Friday 21 December; entire proceeds to be given to a local Charity. Carol singers of all ages welcomed and a separate notice on this subject will be produced in early December.

See you all at the Social.