

Sutton Poyntz Society

May 1974

NEWSLETTER NO. 13

THE POND, key to the charm of our village, continues to worry us. By the end of last summer the worst of the ugly drying-out was prevented by the newly - installed auxiliary water supply, but arrangements for bringing this into operation seemed less than smooth, and in winter the water flow, checked by the now too-high weir, gushed down both Sutton Road and Silver Street.

Our aim, as always, is for a clean, tidy and unadorned village pond with a good head of water. We have urged attention to the problem of seepage which wastes water and renders the South West bank unpleasant and surrounds the seat in mud. We now understand that this Spring is the intention of the Local Authority to dredge and clean the pond and to lower the bed and weir so that even a high water level will be below seepage level. The island which, as villages predicted, has done nothing to enhance the pond's beauty and has at times been a downright eyesore, is to be removed. We hope the seat might at the same time be taken off its unnatural looking concrete stand (on which it was perched to avoid puddles resulting from seepage).

Our conception of the proper care of the pond seems to us quite simple and modest, and we feel that many of the measures taken have been misguided, or wasteful and ineffective half-measures. We hope the new proposals will in fact be carried out shortly and that they achieve their purpose. The pond, properly maintained, is a jewel of increasing value. We learn that hundreds of village ponds throughout the country are lost each year. It is a key duty of this Society to ensure the proper preservation of our own.

Have you spotted the Society's first, (and only) NEWLY PLANTED TREE yet? It is thriving and can already be glimpsed over the wall of the old Court House. It is a lime, donated by Dorset County Council and nurtured and given place by Mr Ernest Saunders. Our national loss of ponds is only exceeded by our loss of Trees. Are we really aware, despite all the publicity, of the difference a single tree can make? Those who watched Jack Waite's films had startling reminders of some important trees lost. We must resolve to turn the tide.

1973 - Plant a tree

1974 - PLANT SOME MORE

We are always reassured when members show concern. Enquiries came in when BULK STORAGE TANKS appeared in Puddledock Farm and we were pleased to be able to report the measures promised to minimise visual impact. The tanks have been placed in an artificial mound, having been treated to encourage lichen, and trees are to be planted which will in time provide good screening. Quite alien structures can be contained, with care.

UPWEY has formed a Society this year and has our very best wishes in its work.

Danger of PLAISTERS LANE continues to worry us. We have pressed in the past for an extension of the 30 mph limit and are doing so, forcefully, again, and hope for success before disaster strikes.

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FUTURE EVENTS

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is to be held on Saturday May 18th at Scutt Hall 7.30pm and it is of vital importance that Committee nominations be sent to Mrs. Litschi by May 13th. Why don't you take a turn on the Committee this year?

After business is done, we are to be entertained by our own troop of village players, led by Mr. Litschi, presenting scenes from THE TRUMPET MAJOR, Thomas Hardy's famous tale of Passion in Sutton Poyntz Mill ("Overcombe") in 1805. All welcome, children to be accompanied please. A unique event not to be missed.

Mrs. B Martyn has wished for some 2 years to create a S.P.S. BANNER which will be presented to us before being submitted for National Competition. We do not anticipate a protest march, but if we had one we could follow a very beautiful and original emblem.

Our kind hostess for TEA ON THE LAWN this year is Mrs. Burrough. We hope for a fine afternoon on July 6th when members are invited to drink tea on the lawn of Greendown, Plaisters Lane 3.30pm.

MIDSUMMER NIGHT, occasion of exotic celebration in times past, will be marked by another sedate but most enjoyable LADIES WALK this year. Gentlemen are not unwelcome but may prefer again to await the fair sex at the Sunray Hotel, to which Mr. Saunders will escort the ladies via public footpath along the valley. Assemble, 7.30 sharp, outside the Springhead Hotel.

RECENT EVENTS

CAROL SINGING roused the village on December 21st to the tune of almost £12.00, since sent to the Cheshire Home. Mr. Fenton promises to organise an even more tuneful and profitable band of Carollers next Christmas.

Audience participation reached new heights when Mr. Jack Waite gave us a marvellous evening of OLD FILMS OF THE VILLAGE. Fascinating, and at times moving, we had glimpses of a very lively community spirit of the past. So much seemed to be happening that we feel we have lost something, and yet in fact this very special evening was the result of village effort now.

The two charming prints which made CHRISTMAS, OR NOTE CARDS are fortunately still available and will be on sale at the Annual General Meeting.

P.S. Your newsletter writer since the Society formed is retiring from the job for a spell and wishes to thank all readers. You all value our village. It takes patience and perseverance to make concern effective but we must not let our generation be the one to allow the beauty of Sutton Poyntz slip away.

Best wishes
Joy Shires