

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & NEWSLETTER No.24

Dear Friends,

This is my report as Chairman of the Society for the 12 months ended 30th April 1981. Members are invited to raise points on the report with me now or at the Annual General Meeting of the Society which will be held on Tuesday, 28th April 1981, at 7.30pm at the Missönn Hall, Sutton Poyntz. All are welcome to attend the AGM, whether Society members or not. Participation in the actual business will of course be confined to Society members.

The AGM usually takes under an hour. After refreshments, we are indeed fortunate to have obtained the services of Mr Paddy Coulter, the well-known professional photographer and film maker. He will show films in European travelogue vein. They will undoubtedly be of a high standard and thoroughly enjoyable.

Admission and refreshments will be free. A collection will be taken in aid of spinal bifidae.

Put the date in your diary now, and dont miss it.

2. MEMBERSHIP of the Society has risen over the years as follows:-

1968 - 52	1973 - 83	1978 - 96
69 - 50	74 - 85	79 - 105
70 - 56	75 - 92	80 - 115
71 - 58	76 - 95	
72 - 63	77 - 98	

This record membership implies that the Society is thriving, but this is not so in every respect, for the reasons set out below and particularly in paragraph 8.

3. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 1981. I would particularly like to see on the Committee (a) a resident of Sunnyfields; (b) more long-time residents of Sutton Poyntz; (c) some of the earlier committee members; (d) some young people - we are in danger of growing old, and that isnt good.

The present Committee is:-

Lawrence Ingham	-	Chairman	Lisle McEachern
Gwen Loveland	-	Vice Chairman	Gladys Robinson
Valerie Freegarde	-	Secretary	Eve Wilkinson
Ernest Saunders	-	Treasurer	Marion Knight Ken Knight

Society rules provide for a Committee not exceeding 16 (including 4 officers). This is perhaps rather a lot, but there is welcome room for new members and I hope people will come forward. In order to do the job properly, Society members will find with this report some nomination forms. Please either drop the completed forms through my letter box (8 Old Bincombe Lane) or phone me (83) and I will collect.

DO PLEASE take an active interest in this. Leaving it to others could result in too few nominations, when the Society and all the good and serious work it does could fade.

To all present Committee members I would like to express my sincere thanks for wise counsel and active help.

4. FINANCES. A Balance Sheet, duly audited, will be produced for the AGM. A copy will be exhibited on the Society notice board. The Treasurer will also have copies to give to all Society members, on request, should they wish to have one in advance of the AGM.

Without impinging on the Treasurer's ground, I would like to make the point that the Society has two funds - a general fund for the usual expenses, and an emergency fund for use should the Society have to involve itself in some costly matter, eg- to employ a solicitor. The present annual subscription of 50 pence a house appears adequate to cover normal expenses, but with inflation it is obvious that the emergency fund cannot grow. I think therefore the AGM should direct the incoming Committee on the following questions:-

- (a) should we build the emergency fund? If so, to what amount and over what time scale?
- (b) should the subscription be raised in order to achieve the increase in the emergency fund? If so, by what amount?

5. RULES. At present these appear to be in draft form. They probably need to be updated and amended to conform more readily with future requirements. Members' thoughts on this will be welcomed at the AGM.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. We've had a very busy year on these, no less than 17 so far. We deal with each one very seriously and as impartially as we possibly can. We don't want to stop people improving their properties unless so doing would obviously be detrimental to the area. We don't want to acquire a reputation of being a "NO" Society. But the Society has a duty to protect our picturesque village and our lovely Dorset countryside, and this we intend to do.

In this context we should, I think, keep in mind that, in the United Kingdom, every single year, no less than 30,000 acres of countryside, including much agricultural land, is lost to urban sprawl, and it is often the case that, despite the fine words of our politicians it is easier for Government and some local authorities to give in to this than to resist. Indeed, is there not a ready instance of this but a mile or two away from our own village?

It follows that the Society must maintain with Weymouth Council a close relationship of mutual understanding and respect. For our part we very much appreciate the help given to us by our Councillors and the Council Officers. Seldom do we find ourselves in marked disagreement with them.

7. OTHER WORK WITH THE COUNCIL. Includes -

- Planting and replanting of trees at the village pond and in other places.
- Clearing of streams.
- Dredging the pond.
- Stopping pond leak.
- Road cleaning.
- Road repairs.
- Traffic control at Preston/Sutton roads.
- Congestion in Sutton Road.

8. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. have been at a low key as this appears to reflect what most people in the village want at this time. I hope it will change to something more active. We didn't run the usual winter dance because the 1979 one lost us £35, and the increasing costs of hiring the Scutt Hall and an acceptable band, on a hall capacity of 90 persons, makes it difficult to break even.

Guy Fawkes festivities were run by the Springhead, and the pantomime by the Preston Pantomime Group. We had no need or wish to compete with these, and are glad to say that they were both highly successful.

On the other hand, coffee mornings and talks cum film shows put on by the Society have been very popular.

Carols round the village went well. A large party turned out in good voice, and raised £24.53p for the Weymouth mentally handicapped.

As always, Ernest Saunders' summer evening walk was much enjoyed. His private relationship with the weatherman ensured that it took place on one of the few fine evenings of a rather poor summer.

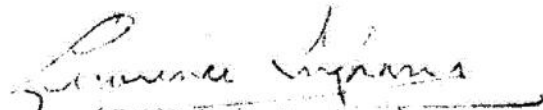
9. CHRISTMAS CARDS. I am sorry to report that we lost heavily on these. We couldn't get the excellent artist of 1979, so decided on a sepia sketch of Silver Street as it was in 1890. Some people liked the card a lot and bought liberally, but with the majority it obviously wasn't popular. We are now £59.93p out of pocket on the cards, but we hope to sell quite a number at future functions, both as Xmas cards and as notelets.

My thanks go to Eve Wilkinson for selling so many cards when they were not to everyone's liking.

Suggestions for future Christmas cards will be welcomed. Logically we have over the years always had a view of the village. There is however a limit to the scenes to be reproduced and perhaps we have reached that. Should we stick to the pattern or break away - have "something completely different"?

10. SUMMING UP. I think this - the Society is financially solvent and fulfilling its main aims. Therefore it is still a good organisation and well worth active support from those who live in or near Sutton Poyntz and who appreciate (a) the value of their property; (b) the picturesque surroundings in which we live; (c) the need to prevent a creeping sprawl of housing enveloping Sutton Poyntz.

May I suggest - support the Sutton Poyntz Society, join in its activities, serve on its Committee, help to achieve its objectives, reap the benefits.


(Lawrence Ingham)
Chairman