

The holidays are over and a disappointing early summer looks likely to give way to a rainy autumn - just the kind of background to help focus the mind on the "bread and butter" concerns of the Society. This Newsletter has progress to report on two main themes - social events and recent planning applications and decisions.

#### SOCIAL EVENTS

The Summer Walk on June 26th, ably guided by Ernest Saunders, was as usual most enjoyable. About 20 people went over the top of the White Horse to Osmington on one of the better summer evenings.

#### Dates for your diary

1. Wednesday, 14th  
October, 10.30am  
at the Mission Hall  
COFFEE MORNING - DEMONSTRATION OF KNITTING BY MACHINE; GENERAL BRING & BUY. Soft drinks will be on sale for the children.  
ALL ARE WELCOME.
2. Saturday, 17th  
October, 8.0pm  
at the Preston Village Hall.  
OLD TYME MUSIC HALL; Cider & Supper; prizes for the best dressed couple; grand draw of the Raffle. Tickets - £1.50 (this event is being run by ~~the~~ our friends at Preston to help raise money to extend the Preston Hall).
3. Guy Fawkes celebrations  
We understand that, as last year, the Springhead are planning to put on a Barbeque and Bonfire. It should be very enjoyable. Watch for their advert.
4. Saturday, 7th  
November, 7.30pm  
at the Scutt Hall  
INFORMAL SOCIAL EVENING; MODERN & COUNTRY DANCING; SUPPER (including a glass of wine); BAR. M.C. ♀ JOHN JOY. All are welcome. Tickets from any SPS Committee member - £1.40.
5. CAROLS ROUND THE VILLAGE - date later; please keep an eye on the Notice Board.
6. CHRISTMAS PANTO - we learn from the Preston Panto Group that news of the annual Panto will be out soon. Watch out for adverts and on SPS Notice Board.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - we are very pleased to have obtained once again the services of Mr Harold Sheild, the well-known artist, to do our 1981 Christmas Card. You will recall that he did the highly successful one in 1979, but was unable to do the 1980 one. Members of the SPS Committee have seen the original sketch he plans to use - the lower end of the Sutton Poyntz pond looking towards the Mill - and it really does look good. We hope to have the Cards on sale from 1st November, but advance proof copies are expected soon now and orders can be placed on these. Please keep an eye on the Notice Board for exhibition of a proof copy and info about how to order.

#### PLANNING NEWS

MISS PITMAN'S RIDING SCHOOL - is being built. Its exterior should look presentable, and screening trees and shrubs will help set it nicely into the surroundings. We think such country pursuits should be encouraged, and applaud Miss Pitman's intention to offer riding to handicapped children.

DOUBLE -

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES OPPOSITE THE SHIP - these have been agreed, oh how long ago, but not yet done - reason - no money.

SUTTON ROAD BETWEEN WINSLOW AND VERLANDS - a meeting with a most helpful Council officer on site agreed that visibility in that road section needs attention. The probable remedy is to dig back the high bank, putting in a retaining wall with a footpath at its base. The road width to stay as it is, and resident's roadside parking to remain. The Council has no money now, of course, but at least we have it recorded and given a priority for better times.

NEW BUILDING AT PUDDLEDOCK - on behalf of our Sunnyfields friends, and in close co-operation with them, we tried very hard indeed, both in correspondence, meeting with Council officers, and asking the assistance of our three Preston councillors, to ensure a safe pedestrian way through Puddledock during the house building work. The Council officers were sympathetic but little more; the three Preston councillors did not even do us the courtesy of acknowledging receipt of our restrained and carefully prepared case.

The recent heavy rain has signalled the quagmire possibly to come. Let us hope that no small child, on the way to school, suffers more harm than a covering of mud.

We still fail to see the common sense of allowing new houses to be connected to the main road system by what is officially a bridle path.

THE MILL - conversion into three flats, retention of the mill machinery, exterior features in good taste and land dedicated to the village have been agreed in principle. The Society has undertaken to maintain the land as a local amenity. We await further progress.

By the way, just in case you're feeling a bit gloomy about things in general, read this -

In 1801 Wilberforce said: "I dare not marry, the future is so unsettled".

In 1806 William Pitt said: "There is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair".

In 1849 Disraeli said: "In industry, commerce and agriculture there is no hope".

In 1852 the dying Duke of Wellington said: "I thank God I shall be spared from seeing the consummation of ruin that is gathering about us".

So take heart; it has all happened before and probably will again. Smile through the winter by joining in the social events organised by the Sutton Poyntz Society and others, and set out in this newsletter.

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