

Spring 1982

THE SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY. Chairman's Annual Report & Newsletter No.27.

Dear Friends,

This is my report for the 12 months ending 30th April 1982. Society members are invited to raise points with me before or at the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, 20th April 1982, 7.0pm at the Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz. Whether Society member or not, you are cordially invited to attend the A.G.M. Participation in the actual business will, of course, be confined to Society members.

ENTERTAINMENT AFTER THE A.G.M. - refreshments (15p), then Mr Ken Bartlett of Messrs Devenish will give a talk - "A BOTTLED HISTORY OF WINE". Mr. Bartlett tells me that the educational value of his talk is usually enhanced by offering his audience a taste of wine, to sample the vintage, perhaps. This sounds very interesting, doesn't it. I trust you will come along to what I am sure will be a very enjoyable evening.

Enter the date in your diary now - Tuesday 20th April, 7.0pm at the Mission hall, Sutton Poyntz.

2. MEMBERSHIP of the Society stands at 94 paid-up households, well above the average of several years past. We welcome as a member anyone who subscribes to the aims of the Society, which, broadly, are - to maintain and improve upon the natural beauty of the village, and to liaise with like-minded bodies to protect the area from unnecessary and ugly development.

3. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 1982. I do thank all Committee members for their support and wise counsel during my two years in office, especially Gwen Loveland our Vice Chairman (woman/person?) who, after serving for several years, wishes, with one or two others including myself, to stand down. Very special thanks also to Ernest Saunders, our Treasurer, who would welcome relief from counting the money, but I am glad to say will continue on the Committee, where his profound local knowledge is invaluable.

There will, then, be vacancies on the Committee and I do hope you will play your part in helping to fill these. Please don't leave it to ~~xxxx~~ others, or the Society and all the useful and serious work it does will fade.

Society members will find with this report some nomination forms. Please either drop completed forms through my letter box (8 Old Bincombe Lane) or phone me (83) and I will collect.

4. FINANCES. An audited balance sheet will soon be exhibited in the Society notice frame; the Treasurer will have copies should you require one at any time.

Finances are healthy. In my opinion, membership is good value at a subscription of 50 pence per adult per household (£1 per household maximum).

5. PLANNING MATTERS. We deal seriously and as impartially as we can with all applications on which Weymouth Council seek our views. We don't want to acquire a reputation of being a "NO" Society. But it would be a sin not to protect our picturesque village and our lovely Dorset countryside.

Our friendly relationship with Weymouth Council, slightly dented by the Sunnyfields fiasco, continues. We appreciate the help given us by Council officers.

We congratulate Fredy Litschi, a founder member and past Chairman of the Society, upon his election to the County Council.

Items of special interest are :-

Miss Pitman's Indoor Riding Arena - the area for this has been levelled and landscaping begun. We thank Miss Pitman for her co-operation and wish her every success.

The Mill - we understand that a purchaser may be in the offing and that he has very desirable plans for its renovation and use. If this is so, we welcome him and wish him well.

Traffic Hazards - we await local authority action on (a) extension of double yellow lines opposite the Ship (approved); (b) footpath on Sutton Road between Winslow and Verlands roads.

Sunnyfields - the morass along Puddledock Lane caused by the building work has arrived as forecast. I sympathise with the residents and applaud their recent action, well reported in the Echo. I sincerely hope no children will be put in danger.

As you know from previous Newsletters, the Society pressed Weymouth Council hard on this matter, both by letters and in meetings with Council officers - in return we received sympathy. You will recall strictures upon our Preston Councillors, to whom we put the case, because they didn't even acknowledge receipt. However, I shouldn't have included in these Councillor Joyce Litschi. I didn't expect acknowledgment from her as she is a prominent member of our Society and very helpful. She objected, and I have apologised.

In fact, Joyce and husband Fredy have, I understand, tried hard to find a cure for the problem that has caused the quagmire. I'm sure we are grateful for their efforts, but should it have happened at all?

6. VILLAGE WORK.

Litter - a few weeks ago, fed up with the state of the village, Ken Knight and I had a purge. We collected from verges four sackfuls of discarded litter. We agreed that (a) to say this is the Council's job gets us nowhere; (b) if householders would but clear discarded cigarette packets etc from their frontages, at least 50% of the litter would be quickly disposed of.

The Pond - has been dredged. The new willows are growing nicely. We are going to refurbish the seats.

7. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. These have had their ups and downs. A proposed dance had to be cancelled for lack of support. For Carols round the Village, normally popular, only four people turned out. The Mayor's Christmas fund suffered proportionately. But talks, film shows, etc have done well. So, as always, did Ernest Saunders' summer walk.

This doesn't mean that the village is dead. The Springhead has taken over the Guy Fawkes celebrations, and our Preston neighbours ran a highly successful Old Tyme musical evening and a very amusing Panto.

8. CHRISTMAS CARDS. We were able to obtain the services of Harold Sheild, whose painting of a local scene was superb. We sold 800 cards and needed more. Credit for this goes to Eve Wilkinson, who has also disposed of most of the (not so popular) 1980 cards.

Can you suggest a suitable theme or picture for the 1982 card?

9. SUMMING UP - the Society is financially sound. It fulfils its main aims. It needs the support of more young people to put life and vigour into the social side.

A few people have queried whether the Society, having achieved its early aims, is still needed. The answer surely is that sufficient matters frequently arise of corporate importance to the village, e.g.- the Mill - to make a situation where, if we didnt have a Society, we would have to form one. Therefore it seems obvious that, if you live in or near Sutton Poyntz and value (a) your property; (b) your picturesque surroundings; (c) the need to prevent a creeping sprawl of housing development enveloping the village - the Sutton Poyntz Society is a good and necessary organisation, well worthy of your support and active participation.

As I stand down from Chairmanship, may I thank members for their help and support, and wish the new Chairman and Committee every success.



(Lawrence Ingham)
Chairman

FOOTNOTE TO NON-MEMBERS - its well worth joining. Just complete the tear-off below and drop it into my letter box.

The Chairman, Sutton Poyntz Society
8 Old Bincombe Lane, Sutton Poyntz

I would like to join the Society

Name -

Signature

Address -

Date -