

Lines from one of William Wordsworth's Odes:

"Waters on a starry night are beautiful and fair"

"Lovely is the rose"

"The sunshine is a glorious birth"

Although written in 1807, the lines have relevance to our glorious summer of 1983, save for the day of the dreadful storms. Visitors have come to Sutton Poyntz in increasing numbers, many by the popular Southern National open-deck bus service. How nice to see folk enjoying themselves in our delightful village - as well as by the sea in Weymouth.

On the topic of the storms and consequential flooding, the Society made strong representations to the Borough Council that work is urgently needed in the area of Plaisters Lane/Sutton Road/Puddledock Lane to clear gullies and conduits. And we pointed out that drainage problems in the village generally are such that careful consideration should be given to the implications of any further proposed development. In addition, the Weymouth Civic Society - to which the Sutton Poyntz Society is affiliated - submitted to the Council detailed comments on the drainage and water-level problems not only of Sutton Poyntz and Preston but also of adjoining areas. The Borough Council replied that they are studying the whole subject.

Membership

The AGM, mentioned in the last Newsletter, took place on 26 April and was well attended. Afterwards Mr. G. Poole gave a very interesting illustrated talk on "Dorset Landscape", showing the relationship between geography, geology and land uses.

Arising from the AGM and a Committee meeting held within a few weeks, the membership of the Committee for 1983/4 is:

Chairman	Bill Mercer	83
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Joyce Litschi	83
Treasurer	Eve Noden-Wilkinson	83
Secretary	Ken Knight	83
Social Secretary	Margaret Brown	83
	Jon Campbell	83
	Mike Doyle	83
	Jean Mullins	83
	Cathy Pressly	83
	Ernest Saunders	83
	Joy Shires	83

Membership of the Society has slightly increased. Welcome to new members. Others wishing to join should please contact a Committee member. Subscription remains unchanged - £1 per household and 50p where there is only one occupant.

Planning and Development

As the Chairman mentioned at the AGM, we continue to endeavour to fulfil the Society's aims, especially that of preserving the character of the village. Some building outside the village is a bit unattractive and obtrusive. We need to be constantly on guard against Preston and Sutton

Poyntz becoming an area of continuous development. It is understood that the Borough Council's Planning Committee consider that a review of the "White land" policy should be undertaken. There are several reasons for this, including various changes in Government policy on the designation and protection of such land, and the need to up-date the old style development plan. The importance of "maintaining the individual character of Sutton Poyntz" has been stressed; so let us hope that any review will not adversely affect the village and surrounding area.

Within the village, work on the Mill - at least the upper parts - seems almost complete; very impressive it all looks, and an asset to Sutton Poyntz. With Mr. Wallis's agreement, the Society has replaced a weathervane on the roof - a fine product of Osmington Forge. Reconstruction work at the Springhead also goes ahead. Depending on the opening date and the views of the incoming landlord, we hope to arrange a special function at the pub. Details will of course be published in advance.

Plans have been submitted to the Council for alterations (mainly internal) to the cottage occupied by Mr and Mrs Squibb by the pond. It is good to know that the thatch will be retained and renewed. Some excellent re-thatching has been done elsewhere in the village recently - a great pleasure to see.

Social Activities

The successful craft and art classes have resumed - craft on Tuesday evenings and art on Thursdays, both in the Mission Hall. New participants will be welcome. Unfortunately for a number of reasons we shall not be able to resume the history class, which was enjoyed last winter by a comparatively small but very keen audience.

For your Diary -

- ** COFFEE MORNING in the Mission Hall on Saturday, 5 November, at 10.30 am. As this will be Guy Fawkes Day, the "bring and buy" will be of toffees, sweets, etc, home-made or otherwise.
- ** TALK by Mr Wiggins of the Dorset County Planning Department on Friday, 18 November, at 7.30 pm in the Mission Hall.
- ** Advance notice - on Friday, 3 February 1984, a talk by Linda Poulson of the County Museum.

(Watch the notice-frame for details of the talks)

During the summer, the now customary and enjoyable Walk took place, with Mr E Saunders leading a group of 27 over the hills to Osmington, where nourishment was taken at the Sunray. Mr and Mrs Mercer opened their garden for a coffee morning on an August Saturday - a pleasant occasion from which the funds benefited.

In June the Society acted as hosts to a party of some 18 members of the Historical Association who were touring Hardy Country, including the village.

Christmas Cards

This year the card will be a black and white reproduction of a print of the Mill and Old Courthouse, 1863. When available, a card will be displayed in the notice-frame, with the price. Then, please contact Eve Wilkinson (evenings preferred) at 1 Old Bincombe Lane (83) for your supply. We are grateful to Mr Rawlings for his help in the production of the cards.

And referring to the notice-frame - many thanks to Lawrie Ingham for re-varnishing and generally looking after it.
