

Since the last Newsletter we have passed through John Keats' season of mist and mellow fruitfulness; rather unusually for these parts we have seen, as Shakespeare did, when icicles hung by the wall and blood was "nipt"; and now, with T Nash, we contemplate "the sweet Spring, the year's pleasant king." Let us look forward to continuing activity by members of the Society.

Overhead Cables

Last time, reference was made to the possible undergrounding of power and 'phone cables or wires. Some electricity cables have been put underground in the area of Silver Street/the Mill/Plaisters Lane, partly at the expense of individuals. However, discussions with the Electricity Board and British Telecom led to the fairly clear conclusion that, because of high costs, nothing much more can be done in the near future. The concept of a single duct for all cables seems, to coin a phrase, a pipe-dream. Weymouth Civic Society are interested in this matter generally; we will be pleased to join in further action with them if evidence of something more definite appears.

Social Activities

Margaret Brown's work as Social Secretary does not wane. The art class has resumed. Some most interesting talks have been held. Mr Raymond Mullins' very friendly chat on William Barnes's dialect poems was enjoyed by the members who attended, albeit few; the pleasure was enhanced by one of the poems being read in authentic Dorset by Mr Ernest Saunders. We were glad to welcome three members of the Upwey Society on that occasion.

Mr Roger Guttridge's illustrated talk on Dorset smugglers last month was excellent and well attended. As a local author, with ancestors who were well-known smugglers hereabouts, how could he fail to entertain? The ladies have been specially catered for by a talk on wholefoods by Mrs Helen Boyce.

For a variety of reasons, another gathering at the Springhead this winter had to be foregone, but hopefully may take place sometime.

Planning

We can all see the work, carried out in accordance with the structure plan, proceeding well on the Sutton Farm land, despite setbacks from the weather and a collapsed wall by the stream. Three more houses are to be built to the West of the drive to the old house, which is itself being carefully restored or in parts rebuilt.

Two appeals against the Borough Council's refusal to allow houses to be built in Winslow Road and by the chapel in Sutton Road were rejected by the Department of the Environment - decisions with which the Society agreed.

Pto

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SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY

NOMINATION FOR THE COMMITTEE 1984/85

Nominee's name . . . . . & address . . . . .

Proposed by . . . . . Seconded by . . . . .

Signed by nominee, indicating willingness to serve . . . . .

[Please let the Chairman (Bellamy Cottage) have nominations by 9th April.]

Towards the end of 1984 several metres of the boundary wall at the Riding Stables were demolished and a new access created in Sutton Road. No application to do the work was made and it appeared that planning requirements might be contravened. Representations were made to the Borough and County Councils and, as this Newsletter is being written, the matter is still under consideration. This kind of "development" certainly makes the task of preserving the village that much harder and more complex.

In the wider context, the Secretary of State for the Environment himself overturned the finding of one of his Inspectors, after a full inquiry, that housebuilding should not take place on "white" land in the borough. This is most disconcerting. The decision - ie to allow building - has wide and dangerous implications both generally and locally, and this is something all concerned will need to watch carefully.

#### The A.G.M.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday, 16th April at 7.30pm in the Mission Hall. Do book the date and come along to give your views on any matter of concern or interest to the village and the area. After refreshments, Mrs C Whitby of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds will give an illustrated talk.

At the A.G.M. the Committee will be elected. There will be 2 or 3 vacancies so here is an opportunity for members to serve. A nomination paper appears overleaf; papers are required by 9th April, please.

#### Fairy Tale

Following requests from several members, the Society in July 1982 asked the Borough Council for consent to erect a hardwood sign by the Sutton Road/Verlands Road junction, saying "Village of Sutton Poyntz - Please drive carefully". When consent was given, fairly quickly, we were told to include on the sign the words "Borough of Weymouth and Portland" and also to wait for the approval of Dorset C.C. as highway authority. Meanwhile Mr Peter Bentley expertly drew up plans and specification. In January 1984 the approval of the County Council was notified to us but the Borough Council stated that planning permission would be required and the fee would be £47. Later we learned that perhaps the sign could be provided by the council as a replacement for the existing metal "Sutton Poyntz" sign on the site, in which case no fee would be payable. However, various discussions resulted in views being expressed that there were too many words on the sign, that wood wasn't really too appropriate and that the only feasible thing was to add a standard metal "Drive carefully" sign beneath the existing one. The S.P.S. Committee decided to forget it.

(PS. Not a fairy tale at all!)