

Looking back over past Newsletters we came across the words "It was a standing-room only meeting - a really keen and representative one". Thus Newsletter No 1, referring to the inaugural meeting of the Society on 5th March 1968. How nice it would be if this kind of thing could appear next time about our forthcoming A.G.M. It will be held on Tuesday, 22nd April at 7.30pm in the Pavilion at the Springhead. Light refreshments will be provided. Do come along to put your views, comments, ideas - bouquets or brickbats. The Committee for the coming year will be elected. A nomination paper appears below; nominations should please be delivered to the Chairman at Bellamy Cottage by 20th April.

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Nearly 300 people attended the Fireworks Evening at the Springhead on 5th November. The excitement of the many children watching a grand display of fireworks was a joy to behold - not that the adults didn't enjoy it, too. A bit of a crush for hot-dogs afterwards will be borne in mind if, as is hoped, a similar event takes place this year. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Watts and their helpers.

A very pleasant Cheese and Wine evening took place in the Pavilion at the pub in December. 40 people enjoyed the "eats" and a talk by a member of Devenish's Wine Department on Hungarian and Australian wines, with tastings. There was some feeling that wines from countries nearer to the U.K. don't have much to fear!

Again this year, the customary "Walk" will take place, starting from the Springhead at 7.30pm on Friday 27th June. The route will be announced nearer the time but it will as usual end at a pub. Make a note now!

It is hoped to arrange a "Dorset Teas" afternoon, possibly in August. Details will be circulated later.

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Good news for many enquirers - we aim to produce a coloured Christmas card this year, in ample time before Christmas and at reasonable cost. If you have a photograph of the village which might form the centre-piece of the card, please let the Chairman have it by 20th April at the latest. Only one size of print can be used by the printers - 3½ x 5 1/8 inches.

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Dorset County Council have reviewed the county structure plan. The Planning Office says the Council will be discussing with borough/district councils concerned house building distribution, the problems of rural communities and employment levels. As regards employment, the Office says that in this borough, among other places, there appears to be a failure to create enough jobs, and although wider national factors are involved "more attention needs to be given to implementing the industrial land, economic development and job-creation parts of the structure plan".

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY

NOMINATION FOR THE COMMITTEE 1986/7

Name . . . . . & address . . . . .

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

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

[Please let the Chairman (Bellamy Cottage) have nominations by 20th April.]

So far as local planning is concerned, there is a general view that if Sutton Poyntz is to retain its character and charm (what the Society was formed to aid), then the present level of residential development makes calling a halt most necessary. Earlier Newsletters have mentioned the availability of housing land elsewhere in the area. The Committee of the Society do not unnecessarily oppose proposals; the principal comment on the plan to use 115 Sutton Road as a tea-room related to possible parking difficulties, and the Council granted permission for a trial period of one year. All but one of the garages by the Mill House are being demolished and a house will be erected in accordance with permission granted some years ago and since renewed. At the Riding Stables, unfortunately - despite an unsuccessful appeal to the Department of the Environment - the caravan has not yet been removed. More applications to convert much of the Stables site to residential use have been submitted; attention has been drawn to the fact that this site is in the conservation area and on "white" land.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

*Peter Stephen had not resided in the village long but he stamped his indelible mark on it in a positive way. He was a man of great charm and boundless energy, anxious to play his part in village life, and always ready to volunteer when work had to be done - he provided a mirror to assist motorists emerging from Sutton Close, he mowed the pond grass on one occasion, and he obtained crockery for our tea parties.*

*He willingly agreed to be Treasurer of the Society and gave sound advice on any problem. With his good humour he helped to maintain a cheerful atmosphere. Plucked during December from our midst when apparently at the height of his career, he is sorely missed; but if a guiding spirit was needed in another sphere, it is easy to see how the choice was made.*

W.H.M.

The village and Preston were saddened by the sudden death in February of Mrs Nellie Randall. Since the inception of the Society she was a friend in arranging our use of the Mission Hall and we, with many organisations and individuals, mourn her passing.

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Following Mr Stephen's death, Mrs Eve Noden-Wilkinson agreed to become once again the Society's Treasurer.

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And finally, as Alastair Burnett says, please do remember the Annual General Meeting on 22nd April. As was written in a Newsletter in 1980, the Society cannot but benefit from the active participation of everyone in the most worthwhile task of protecting this lovely village. Those words may be even more true and compelling today.