



# Sutton Poyntz Society

*Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Dorset Branch)*

## Social Activities

The three events mentioned in the June Newsletter produced excellent results as well as being so enjoyable. The Little Acorns garden party showed a profit of £401.71; the coffee morning at Terra Mia - £9.70; and Dorset Teas at Fox Cottage - £88.30. Grateful thanks to Ron and Aviv Birch, to Gwen and Mike Loveland, and to Beth and Peter Bentley for all their hard work in organising these events. And thanks, too, to everyone who supported them generously by attending and/or donating gifts for the food, raffles, etc.

From the proceeds, the Society gave £250 to the Dorchester Hospital Children's Unit and bought the Oxford Textbook of Medicine (costing £97) for the Weymouth and District Hospital nurses. These gifts have been acknowledged, with gratitude to the Society.

While the Committee are delighted that the Society has been able to raise these sums and support the work of the local hospitals, they do not contemplate similar fund-raising events next year; social activities will continue, but not with major donations to charities in mind.

Future dates for your diary; please come along to support -

18 November 1987 - talk by Mr Eric Baker on Coastal Footpaths and Walks around Dorset. Mission Hall, 7.30 pm

21 January 1988 - another talk, with musical illustrations, by Mr Richard Birley (a follow-up of his most interesting talk last January) - Mission Hall, 7.30 pm.

A Country Dance evening is being considered, possibly in the New Year. If it goes ahead, details will be announced.

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## Christmas Card

This year's card shows a view of the village from Sutton Road. Copies should be available during October - orders to Ken Knight. Mrs Eve Wilkinson will sell them after the end of October. Price 15 p. each.

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## Village Improvements

The Borough Council are putting in hand some "environmental improvements" to the village, including tree-planting, clearing of untidy sites, etc, after any necessary consultation with owners. As part of this exercise two new seats have been provided; one is in Plaisters Lane, where it should be of help to folk using the mobile library, and the other is opposite the Springhead. A small seat has also been installed at the Shuttle bus-stop in Verlands Road. We have thanked the Council for these.

A seat similar to the new one by the Springhead has been purchased by the Society and is sited by the pond, to replace the little bench which was there for many years. This seat is a tribute to the life-long interest which Mr Ernest Saunders has taken in the village.

Daffodil bulbs have been planted around the pond area by the Society, so spring next year should bring an additional patch of colour.

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Leisure Inns have, at our suggestion, had the dilapidated wall of the Springhead's small car park nicely restored. And Mrs Helen Macearchen provided a new mate for the lone Mandarin; thanks to her from the Society - and, no doubt, from the drake!

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### History of Sutton Poyntz

At the suggestion of one or two new residents, here are a few words on this topic. Interesting articles or pamphlets by Mr Fredy Litschi and the late Rev E C Tanner dealt with aspects of the story.

Records certainly show that our distant ancestors of the Bronze and Iron Ages dwelt in the area, and there is evidence of occupation during the Romano-Celtic and Saxon periods. "Suttone" was mentioned in a document dated 891 AD, and doubtless derives from "south town" (or "south settlement") i.e. south of Dorchester; Durnaveria to the Romans.

Poyntz - possibly spelt Pons or Puinz at the time - was the name of a Norman family. The earliest known Poyntz/Pons was responsible for procuring supplies to support the invasion of England by William the Conqueror; the name "Pons" is on the second battle list of Hastings. For his services, this man was given the privilege of holding a market at Ampthill in Bedfordshire, where the king resided. Eventually his descendants became powerful barons in the West country, with a family seat in Gloucestershire.

In the 13th century, Sir Hugh Poyntz married Juliana, a niece and co-heir of Bardolph, who at that time owned the free lordship and manor of Sutton. The Poyntz family did not ever live in Sutton. Later the manor of Sutton passed through marriage to the Newburghs of Lulworth, thence to the Howards and finally to the Weld family. In 1925 the Welds sold off all their possessions in the village. Sutton Poyntz was taken into the then borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis in 1933.

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Everyone heard with great sadness of the terrible accident sustained by Mrs Aviv Birch on 8 September. Her courage and fortitude have been amazing. Our continued good wishes to her and to Ron. Many residents of Sutton Poyntz and Preston signed the petition, inaugurated by the Preston Postmistress, about the danger to pedestrians in Preston Road by the crossing. Despite the problems, something surely has to be done.

Aviv and Ron wish to thank the enormous number of people and organisations in the area (and beyond) who have sent cards, letters and gifts. The sheer volume will preclude individual acknowledgement for some time, but Ron says that all the affection and concern shown is helping them face the future with renewed courage.