



# Sutton Poyntz Society

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

As this Newsletter is being written (early February) the daffodil bulbs planted during the autumn are beginning to peep through the grass round the pond. How nice it is to see more ducks adorning the pond.

Welcome to the newly-formed Sutton Poyntz Village WI who will be meeting monthly in the Mission Hall. Welcome, too, to the Revd John Coombs and his family; they moved into Preston Rectory on a bitterly cold December day.

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## Social Activities

A BARN DANCE and SOCIAL EVENING will be held on Saturday, 12 March, in the Scutt Hall, commencing at 7.30 pm. Tickets £1.50 each, to include a light supper; they must be strictly limited to 100 so obtain yours early from a Committee member. There will be a licensed bar. Dress, of course, informal.

The talks by Mr Eric Barker in November, on Dorset walks, and by Mr Rick Birley in January, on music (with tapes), were enjoyed by the 30-35 people who attended.

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## Planning

Almost invariably, planning features in our Newsletters - this one is no exception. The draft Weymouth Area Local Plan is currently going through the consultation process. One item in it greatly concerned the Society's Committee; i.e. the Sutton Poyntz Riding Stables.

Up to now (and this surely must be so until the new draft has been approved by all the authorities concerned), the Stables area has been on land designated "white", which means a very restricted use. In the past a number of applications to erect dwellings on the site or convert existing buildings have been rejected by the Borough Council, with the Society's support. Appeals against the Council's refusal to permit four developments were heard in 1987 and firmly rejected by the Department of the Environment, who emphasised that the site provides a valuable, visual reminder of the village's origins and enables Sutton Poyntz to retain a semblance of separate identity; the Department also said that the proposed development would spoil the attraction of the area as a whole. (The Society some years ago did not object to an equestrian school being built on land to the east of the stable buildings; some layout work was undertaken but no actual construction has been put in hand).

Given the Borough Council's previous views, reinforced by the DoE, as to development at the Stables, the Committee of the Society were surprised /pto

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## SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY

## NOMINATION FOR THE COMMITTEE 1988/89

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

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

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

Please let the Chairman (Camelot, Sutton Road) have nominations by 14 March

to see in the draft Plan that the Stables are shown in a development area. This seems unfortunate and undesirable. Representations have accordingly been made to the Borough Council and to Dorset County Council and the Department of the Environment that there should be no variation in the present situation.

The Planning Department of the Council are arranging a series of discussion meetings about the draft Area Plan with organisations interested. The meeting with the Society has been arranged for 22 March, to coincide with our Annual General Meeting. Visual displays about the Plan are expected to be on exhibition in the Pavilion at the Springhead during the day. Please make a note now.

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A Development Company is interested in development at the Stables and in the "green wedge" valley in the Sutton Road /Puddledock Lane area. In this wedge, too, previous applications for development have been turned down. Representatives of the company have discussed the matter at some length with the SPS Committee, entirely without commitment. The company will produce some ideas which, when received, will be considered by the Committee. An open meeting will be called so that everyone can see, and be able to express views on, what is proposed. Details of this meeting will be given in the Notice-frame by the Cartshed and publicised as much as possible. This will be of importance to all interested in the village and its environs.

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British Telecom were asked, when implementing their telephone kiosk modernisation programme, not to replace the box at the Plaisters Lane/Sutton Road junction. They replied that, as the box has not been there for 30 years, it is not "preserved". However, we renewed our representations, feeling that a modern box would be out of keeping with the surroundings; we were glad to have the support of the Council's Planning Department.

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#### Annual General Meeting

As mentioned above, the Society's A.G.M. is to be held on Tuesday, 22 March 1988 at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion at the Springhead.

Apart from the talk on the draft Plan, there will be the customary election of the Committee, presentation of accounts and a report on our activities. So please come along to listen, ask questions, express views, suggestions, criticisms - even compliments.

A nomination form is overleaf.

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#### The Newsletter

A suggestion has been made that we might occasionally include a crossword or some other kind of mental exercise in the Newsletter. Not a bad idea? So, if there are compilers - forward please!

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