



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

Planning

The Springhead Pavilion was crowded for the A.G.M. on 22 March - to those who stood or sat uncomfortably for much of the time, our apologies. Apart from normal business there was an excellent presentation on the draft Weymouth Area Local Plan by the Borough Council's Planning Department, with members and officials present.

What most concerned members of the Society was the proposed change in zoning of the front part of the Stables land, to allow "development". The SPS Committee had expressed surprise at this, as it seemed to conflict with the views of the Department of the Environment when in 1987 they dismissed an appeal against the Council's refusal to allow development there; we urged that there should be no change in the designation of the land. At the AGM the Chief Planning Officer said that he considered that, with the change, the Planning Department could with considerable certainty thus prevent development behind the actual Stables; without it, he considered it very problematical whether (despite the DoE views) in the long-term development over a much larger area could be resisted. Only time will tell whether he is right.

Another area of concern was the green "wedge" off Sutton Road/Puddledock Lane. The Chairman of the Planning Committee and the Chief Planning Officer stressed that the Council would not countenance any development at all there; it is a bit of open country, essential as a barrier between the built-up areas of Preston and Sutton Poyntz. The developers who had been interested in building in the "wedge" were present at the AGM and could not have failed to get the message. But, of course, they or some other company could at some time have another go?

A paper on the draft Plan so far as it relates to Sutton Poyntz was produced by Mr Richard Biss and distributed throughout the village. No doubt individual comments were submitted to the Planning Department.

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Committee Membership

Arising from the AGM and a Committee meeting, membership for the current year is:

Chairman	Mrs Joyce Litschi
Vice Chairman	Mr Matt Rosekilly
Secretary	Mr Ken Knight
Treasurer	Mrs Eve Noden-Wilkinson
Social Secretary	Mr Ron Birch

Members: Mrs Beth Bentley, Mr Richard Biss, Mr Mike Doyle, Mrs Gwen Loveland, Mrs Cathy Pressly, Mrs Elizabeth Rowbotham, Mr Ernest Saunders and Mrs Maureen Stephen. (Mrs Bentley resigned on leaving village).

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Social Activities

A full Summer/Autumn programme has been arranged. Please make a note now and come along to enjoy the events below:

Wednesday 22 June - Summer Walk. Meet at the Black Dog, Broadmayne, at 7 pm. Walk back over the hills to the Springhead.

- Wednesday 28 June - Talk by Community Policeman R O'Shea. In the Springhead Pavillion at 7.30 pm. (Unforeseen difficulties prevented this taking place in May, but it is worth waiting for).
- Saturday 13 August - Dorset Cream Teas on the lawn of "Clyffe", Flaisters Lane, by permission of Mr and Mrs Biss. Tea from 3 pm.
- Saturday 8 October - Another Barn Dance and Social Evening at the Scutt Hall. Details later. The pattern will follow that of the successful evening in March although Ron Birch will no doubt dream up a few surprises.

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A free-lance journalist, Elizabeth Wiggins, wrote a good piece for the Evening Echo (11 April) partly to celebrate the Society's 20th anniversary. There was one unfortunate slip - reference was made to "over 80 members in a village of 600". This clearly confused households with people, thus making our membership appear insignificant.

Talking of membership, we would be pleased to welcome those villagers not yet within the fold. Subscription remains at a very nominal £1 per household, with 50p for those living alone. The need for an organisation like the Society has been adequately proved over the years; this will remain, bearing in mind the pressures on land use and the necessity (in the words of our Constitution) to maintain the natural beauty of the village and protect the area from unnecessary and ugly development.

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Two reminders:

The S.N. Weymouth Shuttle service to and from Silver Street, hourly between 10.15 am and 3.15 pm, is on trial to September, so that the company can decide about continuing it. "Use it or lose it" is the maxim.

Because of possible health dangers, children should not be allowed to swim in the Pond, as some have been doing. The fish aren't too happy about it, either!

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How sad that both the lovely Mandarin ducks disappeared, although not at the same time, from their usual haunts round the Pond and Mill race. There is no evidence that they fell victims to a fox, so they may perhaps return. The SPS Committee decided earlier to purchase another pair of Mandarins at the appropriate time - now two pairs may be needed. The other ducks are well, thanks to the care of Miss Elizabeth Saunders.

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Looking through accumulated papers, we came across an article written by the late Don Harbour on the "Ploughman Poet". Unlike Thomas Hardy and William Barnes, a ploughman called Albert Charles Bailey was little known until discovered late in life by a correspondent of a national newspaper in Dorchester in 1911. Bailey, born in Osmington, moved with his family to Sutton Poyntz when he was a boy. The correspondent asked Hardy whether he knew of Bailey. "Yes", he replied, "I've met him. If he'd been born elsewhere, he would have been acclaimed a prodigy, but here in Dorset there are so many poets".

Are there, one wonders, any poets in the village today, apart from Maurice and Kay Ennals who recently published a charming book of their poems. If there are others, space could be found here for your poem - it could be the start of something big!

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