



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

 * MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND *
 * COUNCILLOR LES AMES *
 * I would like to congratulate the Sutton Poyntz Society *
 * on its dedication over the past 21 years to the care and *
 * protection of your area. It is, I believe, an example to *
 * all people of the continued need to work for, understand *
 * and maintain our precious environment, for which this *
 * Borough should be truly appreciative. *
 * I wish the Society every success in its important contri- *
 * bution to the future of Sutton Poyntz and to the Borough *
 * of Weymouth and Portland as a whole. *
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Back in March 1968 some 60 local people met and decided to form the Society. Within a few weeks about 50 households had joined and to-day the membership is double that. The Society's aims, as then decided, have remained unchanged and seem to have stood the test of time - "to make every effort to maintain and improve the natural beauty of the village and to liaise with the C.P.R.E. and the Weymouth Civic Society to protect the area from unsightly and unnecessary development".

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Planning and conservation have naturally been the Society's main concerns - so, those apart, what has been done over the years? A long list would be a bore, but here a few things, culled at random from Newsletters - fireworks and bonfires; dances and social evenings; talks on innumerable topics, many with tapes or slides; traffic and highway problems; many matters connected with the Pond, including pollution and the provision of seats, boundary stones and daffodils; summer walks; community policing; greetings and Christmas cards; bus services; arts and crafts classes ... Between 1974 and 1979 the Sutton Poyntz Players, an offshoot of the Society, gave much pleasure. Donations have been made from time to time to charities. A few ideas (e.g. a float in Weymouth Carnival, an individual sign for the village and an Open Gardens Weekend) were considered but had to be dropped. All round, the Society has always been an active organisation, and continues to be!

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A Portland stone plinth, inscribed "Sutton Poyntz - over 1,000 years since 891", provided by the Society, will be unveiled by the Mayor on Friday, 31 March at 11 am in the vicinity of the Pond. If anyone would like to make a contribution, however small, to the cost of installation of the stone, we would be grateful. Please contact the Chairman.

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Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is to be held on Wednesday, 12 April at 7.30 pm in the Mission Hall. The C.P.R.E. video "Green Link to Europe" will be shown and light refreshments provided. Among the usual business will be the election of the Committee for 1989/90 - a nomination form appears overleaf. This meeting affords the opportunity to express views, suggestions, criticisms or whatever, so please note the date and come along.

The main celebration of the 21st Anniversary is to be an ANNIVERSARY PARTY on Friday, 26 May from 8 pm in the Tack Room at the Stables (next to St. Andrew's Church). A welcome drink will be served and later on a choice of a hot or cold meal. The Mill Street Jazz Band will be there, with other entertainment. The cost is £4.50 per person and tickets will be available from Mr Ron Birch and members of the Committee. Numbers will have to be limited, so make a note now of this party and join it on the night.

It had originally been intended to hold this event in the village itself but various problems have unfortunately prevented this.

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On planning, reference has often been made to the Society's function of commenting on applications to the Borough Council for permission to undertake development in or affecting the village. From time to time, too, discussions have been held with those proposing major work - e.g. Old Bincombe Lane development, conversion of the Mill, renovation of the pub and, more recently, substantial development in the green "wedge" between the village and Preston. Any development in the wedge has always been opposed by the Society, and the Chairman of the Council's Planning Committee reaffirmed at our 1988 AGM that it should be retained as an essential barrier between two built-up areas. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, Mr Peter Diment's plans for his new farmhouse in Puddledock Lane were not objected to by the SPS Committee, who thought it important that a viable farm should remain. However, as regards subsequent plans for the conversion of old cattle barns and the erection of a new house, the Committee did not dissent from the conversions, provided they were in fact feasible and could be satisfactorily done, but they did not accept the idea of a new house in this sensitive area.

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There are still available prints of various greetings cards which the Society has produced over the years; some are being sold at considerably reduced prices. Please contact Mrs Eve Noden-Wilkinson (tel: 83).

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Isn't the beauty of the village and surrounding areas often spoiled by the inevitable litter - drink cans, cigarette packets, food wrappings, etc? The Society has occasionally conducted blitzes on litter and we certainly support the Borough Council's cleaner environment campaign. The Borough Engineer is reviewing the question of litter-bins in the area. But if we all remove litter from near our homes, the village would be that much more pleasant, wouldn't it?

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Eight years ago a Newsletter referred to the Society fulfilling the ideals of those whose foresight created it. Long may we continue to do so - but that can happen only if support is maintained or, better still, strengthened. Let us look forward to the next anniversary!

Sutton Poyntz Society NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 1989/90

Name (who is willing to serve if elected)

Address.....

Proposed by Seconded by

(Please return form to the Secretary, Millstream Cottage, Sutton Road, by
7 April 1989)