



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday, 4 April at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane. The usual business will be transacted, including election of the Committee for the coming year. Anyone can raise any matter of relevance to the village or the Society. Nomination forms for the Committee are available from any member of the present Committee.

As important as the A.G.M. will be a slide-show by Mr Alan Stevens of Ansty on the magnificent flowers, birds and marine life of the Falklands - a grand introduction to those unspoilt islands. Light refreshments will be served. Do make a note of the date.

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HARDY 1990

The Committee of the Society are pleased to be involved in the celebrations of the 150th birthday of Dorset's famous son, Thomas Hardy. Our programme is:

1) On Friday, 22 June the usual summer walk will follow one much loved by Hardy - a circular walk commencing and ending at the bridge at Lower Bockhampton. Cars will be available, for those without transport, at the Springhead at 7 pm and of course for the return journey to the pub for refreshment.

2) A "Hardy Evening", with presentations of Hardy's works, supper and a barn dance with a five-piece band, will be held in Preston Village Hall on Saturday, 14 July. More details about time, cost, etc. later on - but a successful evening seems assured!

3) Dorset Cream Teas, hopefully with a Hardy flavour, will be served on the lawn of Sutton Lodge, Puddledock Lane, from 2.45 pm on Saturday, 18 August.

These events are some way off, but they are worth noting now.

As will be generally known, a special Group within the County is organising many celebrations during the year. Two important local ones are a Town Fair at Dorchester on Saturday, 2 June, and a Country Fair at Kingston Maurward the following day. Stalls, competitions, exhibitions, side-shows and, as the programme says, "very much more" will abound. The Society has told the organisers that we will help in any way we can. These events are well worth supporting.

Dorchester seems to have thrown itself whole-heartedly into Hardy 1990. It will be interesting to see what Weymouth will be doing, won't it?

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DORSET BEST KEPT VILLAGE

In conjunction with the Village W.I, the Society will this year be entering this competition, sponsored by C.P.R.E. and others. The organisers are looking for a village whose community works together, makes the most of its natural features, maintains amenities and cares for the environment. They are not looking for "picture-postcard" villages or delightful individual gardens, though they are important. What is

imperative is absence of litter and the general appearance of greens, streams, hedges and fences, footpaths, surroundings of halls, pubs and buildings, etc. The Society, with the W.I, will be taking steps to try to ensure that the beauty of Sutton Poyntz is not marred. All can of course play their part - we are sure you will. Judging will take place unannounced during June so we need to keep on our toes all the time.' Notwithstanding the large number of most attractive villages in beautiful Darset, there is no reason why we shouldn't succeed.

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"ROUND ABOUT SUTTON POYNTZ AND PRESTON"

A new booklet will be published early in April. A limited number will be on sale at Preston Post Office, and copies may also be obtained by phoning "Camelot", Sutton Road, on 83 .

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PLANNING

Things have really been fairly quiet so far as the village is concerned. There is no firm further news about the proposed development at the Riding Stables, although on the grape-vine one hears of a likely fresh application in the offing. Mr Peter Diment's appeal to the Department of the Environment against the Borough Council's refusal to permit the building of five houses on the site of the farm buildings is reported to have been successful.

Ten illuminated advertisement display units have been proposed along Weymouth Esplanade. The Society normally comments only on applications affecting Sutton Poyntz but the Committee felt so strongly against these displays that they made representations to the Council. The natural beauty of the Esplanade, enjoyed by inhabitants and visitors alike, has been enhanced by the lovely displays of flowers and it is most surprising that the Council should contemplate such obtrusive advertising. Let's hope wiser counsels prevail.

On the general question of planning applications to the Council for development in this area, the S.P.S. Committee wish to say again that what they do is to submit comments (as necessary) on those applications, details of which are reported in the Evening Echo from time to time. The Council makes the decisions, taking into account - or otherwise? - comments received. The fact that the Society may express views on an application need not prevent individuals from doing so should they wish; certainly, comments can always be given to members of our Committee. If an application is of major importance, the Society normally calls an open meeting to give everyone an opportunity to say what they feel.

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APOLOGY

As he was admitted to hospital only a few days before 21 February, Mr Mick Shepherd was unable to give his popular slide-show and at short notice a suitable alternative could not be found. We hope to make another date with him for the winter.