



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

Looking through past Newsletters one comes across an interesting item from 1977. Asking "What does the Society do?", the Newsletter responds:- we do our serious work - referring to planning, amenities and such matters; we do our chores - tidying around, etc; we educate ourselves - mentioning planning, design, history and the work of some of the other societies then springing up; and we amuse ourselves. How well put! In 1976/77 there were eight social events in just under a year. Accepting that some kinds of events popular in the Seventies are now less popular, the Society lives up to earlier activities. So - "amusement":

- ** A reminder that another of Mick Shepherd's inimitable illustrated talks will take place on Friday 8 February at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane. Light refreshments. Nothing to pay.
- ** Another Barn Dance, possibly with a European flavour, in late May or during June.
- ** Cream Teas, once again, in August. Watch for further details.
- ** An Outing? It has been suggested that the Society should organise a coach outing. Exbury Gardens during azalea time - a delight - would be the venue. Will you please let a member of the Committee know as soon as possible whether you are interested? We hope that enough people will be interested to justify ordering a coach. Likely dates are the first or second Saturday in May, and the trip would probably be from about 10 am to 4.30 pm or a little later.

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 10 April at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room. After the usual business Mr Roger Peers of the Dorset Archaeological Society will give a talk. A very interesting evening is assured, so please note the date and come along to express your views, ideas, criticisms, even commendations. Nominations for membership of the Committee for the ensuing year should please be given to the Secretary by 8 April.

How distressing it was to learn of the dastardly attack on Preston's P.C. Rick O'Shea while on duty in Weymouth, resulting in both his arms being fractured. The Society sent him good wishes, accompanied by a bottle of good cheer.

Literature has been received from the Wildfowl Trust about a scheme, called Pondwatch, to promote interest in and conservation of ponds, streams and similar waterways. This commendable objective involves periodical surveys, inspections and reports. The Society is seeing whether local Brownies or Scouts might be interested in taking part.

On planning, despite our having been (unjustly!) castigated for almost always having mentioned them in recent Newsletters, the Stables

again call for comment. The site of the former stables is, after all, a crucial point of Sutton Poyntz. Work on the first of the three dwellings which the Borough Council approved for erection there began in the autumn but soon ran down and finally stopped. Scaffolding and other plant was later removed amid, naturally, various rumours. What is certain, however, is that some of the building work already done is not in accordance with the approved plans and consents, as regards construction of walls, quoins and lintels. The Council's Planning Officer has been authorised to negotiate with the developer to secure improvements in the standard and appearance of the work, failing which enforcement action has been approved. Many folk have asked about the position and we hope this information will help.

There is general pleasure that the planning authority has consented to Tony Eves using the Cartshed for his car repair business, at least for a five-year period. It came as a surprise to some people that he had to submit a formal application, costing a lot of money, to carry on the business; planners, like God in the hymn, seem to have to move in a mysterious way ...

No particular comments were called for on a number of other local planning applications recently submitted to the Council. Members may not be too happy about the reported proposals for development at the Coast-guard Cottages at Bowleaze, but the SPS Committee felt that this is not a matter which the Society could reasonably comment on.

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Congratulations to Fredy Litschi, whose interesting and informative booklet on Sutton Poyntz has gone into a reprint.

There is still a supply of those useful and attractive pen-and-ink drawings by a Weymouth artist of scenes in the locality - six notelets with envelopes for only 75p. They may be obtained from 1 Old Bincombe Lane.

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To conclude, a note from the annual report of Weymouth Civic Society. An affiliated body, which was concerned at "rat running" through narrow roads while major roadworks were in hand elsewhere in the area, asked for signs to be placed at various points to warn drivers of hazards. Responses to the requests were, in effect, "drivers ignore signs, so we don't use them" and/or "the hazard is obvious, so no sign is necessary". That must prove something??

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