



# Sutton Poyntz Society

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

A bit of nostalgia for this 50th edition. Members who have in the past been concerned with Newsletters make their contributions.

## Mrs Molly Hanson

• While reading through past Newsletters issued since my period of office (some 10 years ago) I realised that the same topics are arising and being dealt with by the present Committee. The foremost seems to be planning. Many applications have been commented on but none, I think, which have resulted in our headline in the News of the World "The people down on animal farm". This notoriety arose from our objections to planning applications by various animal charities who inherited under the will of Miss Guppy, a well-known villager of yesteryear. Happily, the applications were refused and we still retain the green fields and open spaces we all value so much.

I congratulate the subsequent and present officers and Committee on their continued and valued work. Long may the Society continue to ensure the survival of this beautiful village in this lovely county of Dorset!

## Mr Lawrie Ingham

Hello, everyone! I wasn't a very good Chairman of the Society - not tactful enough, especially in my Newsletters. The Society may have sighed with relief when I stepped down!

Two outstanding things during my chairmanship: the building of Seven Acres, when children from Sunnyfields had to wade through deep mud to get to school; and the threat to demolish the Mill. Both issues were resolved.

I did, however, depart with a flourish, for I just managed to coincide my last AGM with a generous wine-tasting session. Never was the business at an Annual Meeting more speedily disposed of - Cheers.

Sutton Poyntz Society - more power to your elbow!

## Mr Fredy Litschi

25 years have gone by since Joyce and I settled in the village. Many things have changed - gone are a lot of the people we knew: Clive and Lynne at the Springhead, Henry Diment, the Misses Pavey at the shop, and many others. Some houses have greatly changed in appearance and others have disappeared.

In those lively days a group of us formed the Society, whose main objects were regular cleaning of the pond, removal of the "island" from the pond and the village's designation as a conservation area. By 1971 the middle of the village was so designated.

Many Committee members have departed; others have played their parts in organising social events and conveying views to the planners. Although it has expanded more in these 25 years than ever in its long history, Sutton Poyntz remains a beautiful and unique village of which we should be proud. We must never give up the fight to keep it so.

## Mrs Joy Shires

How much do we care? That was the question in 1965 when a pile of stone was dumped in our pond. It has long gone, leaving the dancing reflections of the stretch of water interrupted only by dipping birds and gliding ducks. But the pile did serve a purpose. It mobilised our feelings of sadness that so much of our environment that brings joy to life is lost, and not by need but by greed or carelessness or thoughtlessness.

What could we do about it? Cynics said, "Nothing". Some said, "It's too late, the village is already spoiled", but at our inaugural meeting Mission Hall was packed.

• What have we achieved? Here we need to remind ourselves that the Society has no authority, no statutory powers; it can only have effect by influence, by being well-informed, by active participation. We must keep in mind the purpose of the Society, which is not to settle disputes between neighbours, to dictate, nor to keep out newcomers. Not to freeze the village entirely in time for the benefit of those lucky enough to live there, but to battle away to conserve the features and qualities that go to make up the special charm of Sutton Poyntz, for the benefit of all and for future generations.

Do we care? Yes, we do, we care a great deal.

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Next a note from Mrs Joyce Litschi about the Sutton Poyntz Players 1974-1980

We began as an offshoot of the Society when Fredy thought that as a "Hardy Village" we should produce a Hardy play set in our own village. Of course, there were the usual sniffs and snorts about turning the Society into a drama group, but after the initial successful start we became completely independent.

Our first venture was an abbreviated version of "The Trumpet Major". This was followed by "Under the Greenwood Tree", "The Three Strangers" and many others. Productions were staged annually in the Scutt Hall on three successive nights, with rehearsals in members' homes but mostly at "Wyndings". With the help of friends we constructed and painted our own scenery.

It was not always easy to persuade people to take part but talent did come to light. Who could forget John Harrison, Harold Handscomb, and Millie Corben in her long white drawers? Great stuff! They brought the house down.

We took our plays to Herrison, Owermoigne and Pontins, and finally put on one of Hardy's short plays as part of Bobby Cook's Charity Show in October 1980 at Weymouth Pavilion.

Happy memories for us all, indeed.

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Now, the present! Why not make a note now of the following important EVENTS arranged by the Society?

\*\* The Chief Planning Officer of the Borough Council will speak to members on Tuesday 24 September in the Springhead Pavilion at 7.30 pm. This will be a good opportunity to meet and listen to Mr Richard Burgess. Light refreshments will be served. We are grateful to Mr Jim White for this facility.

\*\* The Casterbridge Male Voice Choir will give a concert in St Andrew's Church, by kind consent of the Rector, on Wednesday, 27 November at 7.30 pm. Admission will be by programme, price £2, obtainable in due course. Proceeds will go to the new School building fund. An excellent musical evening is in prospect.

Another successful barn dance was held in June, masterminded as before by Mr Ron Birch. Thanks mainly to the raffle, a profit was made and half (£65) was donated to the school building fund.

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#### GREETINGS/CHRISTMAS CARDS

Cards, suitable for either Christmas or general use, are again being produced by the Society. They will be in colour, showing a view of the

pond area, and cost 25p each, including envelope. Mrs Eve Noden-Wilkinson, 1 Old Bincombe Lane (tel. 83 ) will be selling them. Watch the SPS notice board for availability.

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN...?

As part of the European Festival, Mr Fredy Litschi has offered to give a short course in conversational German for beginners on Wednesdays from 7.30 to 9.0 pm in the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane. A modest charge to cover hall expenses only will be made. If you are interested, please contact him by 1st September - phone no 83 .

Mrs Joy Shires suggests that members and friends who are interested in social bridge might consider getting together periodically. Those who would like to do so are asked to phone her on 83 .

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MEETING WITH COUNCILLOR BRIAN ELLIS

Representatives of the Society's Committee recently met Councillor Ellis to talk about a number of matters affecting the village. Preservation of its rural character, including particularly the retention of the open space between Sutton Poyntz and Preston, was agreed to be of vital importance.

Liaison with local councillors will be maintained. Councillor Ellis is now a member of the Council's Planning Committee.

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"ALBERTINA'S GRAND-DAUGHTER"

Octogenarian member Mrs Marjorie Whiles has gone into print. Prompted by her grandchildren's and other youngsters' interest, she has written of her varied and interesting life. The book "Albertina's Grand-daughter, Memories of a Life, 1908-1990" is dedicated to her husband Bill, the late Dr W H Whiles, who was an eminent child psychiatrist; it may be purchased from Mrs Whiles at 11 Old Bincombe Lane for a modest £5.95.

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

The "roadway" constructed in June in the field adjoining Plaisters Lane caused some consternation until we learned that it is connected with the work of laying a new water main, by Wessex Water, across a long stretch of the countryside. We are told that the field will be restored when the work is completed.

On 19 July the first turf for the new St Andrew's C of E School off Littlemoor Road was cut. The parish is required to contribute some £100,000 towards the cost. We wish the authorities well both with the building work (expected to be completed by September 1992) and with the daunting task of fund-raising.

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