



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

Obituary

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Ernest Saunders in February. He had lived from an early age at Northdown Farm and was much liked and respected by us all.

Recent newcomers to the village may not know of the valuable part Ernest played in the founding of the Society in 1968. When a small group met together with a view to working towards the designation of Sutton Poyntz as a conservation area, Ernest was wholeheartedly with us and took the post of Treasurer, which he held for many years. As I recall, many founder members were comparative newcomers and we welcomed the advice and support of Ernest, as a true 'native' of the village.

Until a year before his death, he rarely missed a meeting. He took a great interest in the Society's work and was always, until his great age forbade it, ready to lend a hand in all our projects and functions.

May he long be remembered with affection by all.

Joyce Litschi.

The seat by the Pond, close to the information board about Sutton Poyntz, was provided by the Society in 1987 as a tribute to Ernest Saunders' life-long interest in the village.

* * * * *

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE For the current year, these are:

Chairman	Tony Bugler
Vice Chairman	Joyce Litschi
Secretary	Ken Knight
Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Eve Noden-Wilkinson
Social Secretary	Gordon Perks
Committee:	Richard Backwell, Ron Birch, Clive Brown, Simon Emblen, Richard Meech and Liz Rowbotham.

Tony Bugler writes: Joyce Litschi's chairmanship of the Society for the past six years is indeed a hard act to follow. Her great experience of the Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and its various departments, notably planning, has been invaluable. Fortunately, she will still play an important role as Vice-Chairman. Apart from her professional know-how, however, her skilful conduct of our meetings was mainly due to her pleasant and good-humoured personality, coupled with a sincere interest in the affairs of the village.

* * * * *

SOCIAL EVENTS Do note the following and come along to enjoy them:

Summer Walk on Thursday, 28 May. The start and finish will be Hardy's Cottage car park. The walk is about 4½ miles long and will commence between 6.30 and 6.45 pm. Afterwards, supper can be eaten at the Wise Man, West Stafford. Anyone requiring transport is asked to tell a

P.T.O.

member of the Committee.

This year's walk is being arranged by Richard Backwell.

Visit to Waterworks Museum on Thursday 2 July. Jacqui Summers, the Curator, is glad to be able to show members around and give a brief talk on the exhibition, which is now well-known over a wide area. Meet at the Museum (at the end of Sutton Road, past the Springhead) at 7 pm.

Dorset Cream Teas on the lawn of Sutton House, Puddledock Lane, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Critchell - Saturday, 22 August, from 3 pm.

On the subject of social activities, many thanks to Ron Birch for all his work over six years, during which many highly successful and enjoyable events have taken place. Other commitments have caused him to give up being Social Secretary but he is still on the Committee. And best wishes to Gordon Perks, the new Major Domo.

* * * * *

The A.G.M. on 24 March in the Springhead Pavilion - thanks to landlord Jim White - was attended by slightly fewer members than in 1991, but the business was satisfactorily dealt with. Mr Phil Snook, Retail Managing Director of Devenish's, spoke interestingly about the problems of running pubs these days.

* * * * *

PLANNING

Building is currently going ahead on the late Mrs Bailey's land in Plaisters Lane. Following a site inspection, the Council's Planning Committee approved the erection of three houses there.

We remain hopeful that the Mill House may be saved from falling down, and White Horse Cottage from demolition. They are essential parts of the history and charm of the village.

Discussions have taken place with the Chief Planning Officer of the Council on possible developments which may follow from the death of Mr E Saunders and the retirement, at some future date, of his sons who run the farm.

At the request and expense of the Society, the Council has agreed to provide new street name-plates for Puddledock Lane, indicating that it is not suitable for vehicles.

* * * * *

Another "Great Dorset Beach Clean" will have taken place early in May. The Society gave advance publicity to the clean-up; beaches round here for cleaning were Chesil and Osmington Mills.

The Society was represented at a recent meeting of many local groups with the Borough Council to encourage greater support for the Britain in Bloom Campaign; we undertook to provide a refuse bin for somewhere in the town centre. Weymouth beach is superb and the floral displays on and around the Esplanade, as well as elsewhere in the borough, are magnificent. What a great pity there is often so much litter and some vandalism. Anything we can all do to improve the situation should be done, shouldn't it?