



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

Newsletters over the years have recorded changes in the Village. The sale of Northdown Farm has, however, been the saddest. The story of the Saunders family is bound up with Sutton Poyntz. Where else would you find a farm situated in the centre of a village and kept so tidy and run so efficiently with such complete dedication?

Wasn't it sad to see those fine cows loaded on to trucks and whisked away, and the lines of farm implements set out in the meadow for auction? It was some consolation for us to rescue from the sale a veteran farm wagon bearing the name of Ernest Saunders; this village memento was bought jointly by the landlords of the Springhead and the Society, and when renovated it will be displayed outside the pub.

Best wishes to David, Derek and Elizabeth Saunders, and their families, in their future well-earned retirement and rest. A whole new life looms ahead - one which will not necessarily involve getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning!

It is also pleasing to announce that the ducks, which left the pond a few weeks ago, will be returning in due course. Dave Caddy has gallantly stepped into the breach as Duck Warden, to be relieved on occasion by a rota of volunteers. If you would like to be on the rota - to put the ducks to bed at teatime (or later in the summer) - please let Tony Bugler or Jim White at the pub know. The Saunders family are kindly donating a duck house.

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SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ... coming soon ...

Some time ago we enjoyed a talk by the then Curator of Dorset County Museum, and he said he would be pleased to show members round one evening. The new Curator, Richard de Peyer, will be doing so on Tuesday 10 November - meet at the Museum in High West Street, Dorchester, at 7 pm. The tour will take about 1½ hours; a fascinating evening in prospect.

Plans are already in hand for a Barn Dance next March to celebrate the Society's 25th anniversary. More details later of course.

The Summer Walk in May was enjoyable, as was the visit to the Waterworks Museum in the village; about 40 people attended each. Unfortunately Dorset Cream Teas had to be abandoned because of the dreadful weather. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Critchell for the use of their garden and to Ron Birch and his band of helpers.

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PLANNING

The Society has been concerned at developments at the Waterside Caravan Park. Our Chairman attended a site meeting with the Chief Planning Officer of the Borough Council. The company must now apply for planning permission for earth-works in progress. The

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central earth-mound running "vertically" up the green hill south of the site has to be removed. Eight caravans, said to be temporary, on the western edge are being investigated - the Society is continuing to press for them to be removed. Thirty-odd caravans in the south-eastern corner of the area are to be removed by the end of October, and a public inquiry is to be held regarding the diversion of footpath no 26 on the tenting field.

An appeal has been made to the Department of the Environment against the Council's refusal of permission for a new farm-house off Puddledock Lane, with a hearing likely in November. The Society agreed with the Council's decision and the Committee sees no reason for it to be changed.

Along with all householders in the borough, the Society has been asked for comments on the Council's "local plan pre-deposit document" The Way Ahead, detailing the main items for consideration as the 21st century is approached. The Committee has submitted observations, as no doubt many individuals will have done.

Plans have been submitted to the Council by the trustees of St Andrew's School for development on part of the site. Subject to the development being sympathetic to the environs, the Committee has raised no objection.

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Don't forget that the Society's greeting cards are still available. At 25p each (they are dearer elsewhere!) they represent very good value for Christmas - or, indeed, for other occasions. Eve Noden-Wilkinson at 1 Old Bincombe Lane will be pleased to supply you.

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A little while ago the death occurred of Gertrude Bugler at the wonderful age of 95. She was chosen by the great Thomas Hardy to play Tess of the d'Ubervilles on the London stage in the 1920s. Our Chairman and others from the village attended a memorial service for her. It is an indication of Hardy's fame and perhaps of Gertrude's abilities that her death occupied about 12 column inches in the South China Morning Post, a newspaper circulating widely in S.E. Asia. Does anyone know whether similar publicity was given in, say, the USA or Down Under?

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The "German for Beginners" classes which Fredy Litschi held successfully last winter have resumed at the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane, on Friday evenings. (Contact 833303)

Margaret Tambling's delightful garden has given much pleasure to us here and to a lot of visitors for many weeks. Congratulations to her on winning third prize in the Britain in Bloom competition for gardens east of the River Wey. Well done!

To conclude as we began on the theme of change. Every good wish to John Tallon, the Head Teacher, and to all the teachers, staff and pupils of St Andrew's School as they begin life in their lovely new building. Long may the traditions of the old school be maintained.