



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

Very best wishes for a Happy New Year. The past year has been, in a now famous phrase, something of an annus horribilis for a lot of folk. Let us hope that 1993 will see an improvement all round.

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"BRITAIN IN BLOOM" - A separate note is being circulated about the village entering this competition. The S.P.S. Committee hopes that everyone will put as much effort into this as was done three years ago for the Best Kept Village competition. With one more concentrated push we can win!

THE DUCKS - They're back and doing well! This has been an excellent exercise in co-operation among organisations and individuals, not least Jim and Julie of the Springhead and Dave Caddy.

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SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

On Wednesday, 3 February, the Revd Ivor Bromham, a resident in the village, will give a talk on "Some Mysteries of Wales" at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane. Do come to enjoy this first S.P.S. event of the year; coffee and biscuits will be served afterwards.

The second event will be the Barn Dance to celebrate the Society's silver jubilee; it is on Saturday, 20 March, in the Preston Village Hall. The popular "Jump at the Sun" will again provide the music; the theme will be "nautical"; tickets will be available nearer the time from members of the Committee, and accommodation is limited.

In late May/early June the customary and enjoyable Walk will take place (details later), and in August Dorset Cream Teas will be served on a Saturday - hopefully with none of the dreadful weather which caused the cancellation of last year's event.

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TRAFFIC CALMING - The Society made representations to the Borough Council for some kind of restraint on vehicles which speed along Sutton Road and Plaisters Lane; for example, "rumble pads" might be placed strategically on those roads. The Borough Engineer's reply said that many requests have been received for some form of traffic calming but unfortunately lack of funds prevent any such schemes being put in hand. When funds are available, roads which have been proposed will have to be surveyed for speeds, accidents, etc. to determine whether they meet the criteria laid down. However, the Engineer is aware of the situation here, particularly as the roads have no footpaths which can separate pedestrians from vehicles, and he will ensure that the roads are included in any future study.

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DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM - Forty members and friends of the Society visited the Museum in Dorchester last November and were shown round enthusiastically and knowledgeably by the Curator, Richard de Peyer. Later, the S.P.S. Committee decided that we should become a member of the body running the museum (the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society) as an "affiliated society" with a subscription of £16 a year. The museum is well worth a visit, or even more than one.

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PLANNING - Only a small number of applications affecting Sutton Poyntz has recently been submitted to the Borough Council; the Society made no particular comments on them. However, as regards a dwelling proposed to be erected, with two double garages, on land behind "Volona", Sutton Road, the Committee asked the local authority to bear in mind the possible effect of the development on the traffic situation. Congestion often occurs through activities at the Scutt Hall and the Old Rectory, and Verlands Road immediately opposite the Weir (off which the work would be carried out) generates a substantial amount of traffic, including the S.N. shuttle buses.

A report in the Evening Echo just before Christmas referred to comments received by the Borough Council on its document "The Way Ahead", outlining planning ideas into the next century and seeking residents' views. The Society submitted detailed comments, but apparently only something over a hundred letters were received by the Planning Department. What conclusions are to be drawn from this limited response to the document, which was sent to all householders in the borough, can only be conjectured!

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AND FINALLY...

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 7 April, at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room. This is an opportunity to elect the Committee, to talk about the Society's activities (or, if you so think, its inactivities) and generally get together over light refreshments. We shall also arrange a speaker on some interesting topic. So please reserve the date in your diary.

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