



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

More members came to the AGM on 7 April than for many years; grand to see so many people there. Apologies to a few of the 65 present who didn't have a comfortable seat in the hall.

We are grateful to Michael and Sarah Smith for stepping in at short notice (due to Mrs Preece's indisposition) to provide an extremely entertaining talk with slides on their Turkish travels. We applaud their adventurous spirit.

The sale of Northdown Farm was a momentous happening and members were anxious to learn what the implications would be. Accordingly, Mr Will Bond, the new owner, was invited to come and introduce himself to us at the AGM; this he did most ably. Members were impressed by his interest in conservation, for which he won an award in 1990. He also took part in the Twyford Down saga in a consultancy role for flora. Mr Bond will be submitting plans to the Council for the farmyard development - our preliminary impression is favourable.

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Officers

As a result of the committee elections at the AGM and the first meeting of the Committee, officers of the Society for the current year are:

Chairman	Tony Bugler
Vice-Chairman	Joyce Litschi
Secretary	Ken Knight
Treasurer	Simon Emblen
Membership Secretary	Joyce Litschi

Other Committee members are Richard Backwell, Ron Birch, Clive Brown, Richard Meech and Dee Tebbutt; welcome to Dee as a new member. Two ladies wished to stand down - Eve Noden-Wilkinson did sterling work as Treasurer for several years and Liz Rowbotham was a wonderful organiser of food etc at functions; thank you both. For the time being, no Social Secretary has been appointed in place of Ron Birch, whom we thank for all his hard work. They are, though, still around to lend a hand!

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CONGRATULATIONS to Rear Admiral John Croydon upon his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset. And very well done to Ian Critchell on the superb job of renovating the Mill House - what an asset it is to the village now.

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Subscriptions remain quite ridiculously low. Still only £1 per household and 50p for those living alone. It is hoped that subs will have been collected before the end of June.

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Social Activities

Our 25th anniversary Barn Dance was, as usual, a successful and enjoyable occasion. Some felt that one or two of the dances were a bit complex but all round a good time was had by all. From the proceeds, £50 has been donated towards the purchase of a second Thermacool machine which

is used, effectively, by the local hospital in the treatment of cancer.

Summer Walk - This will take place on Tuesday 1 June, starting at 6.30 pm from the car-park of the Elm Tree pub at Langton Herring (G.R. 615824). It will be only about 3 miles, and afterwards snacks can be taken at the pub; orders can be given before the walk begins. Do come along and enjoy this delightful corner of Dorset. Anyone requiring a lift to or from the pub is asked to contact Richard Backwell, who is organising the walk, or any Committee member.

Dorset Cream Teas - We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 31 July at Sutton House, Puddledock Lane, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Paul Critchell. Teas will be served on the lawn from 2.30pm. The Clerk of the Weather assures us of a lovely afternoon this year, unlike 1992!

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BRITAIN IN BLOOM - A special group of Society members is keeping an eye on things connected with our entry in the 1993 competition. The intention is to encourage us all to maintain the usual keen interest in the village, to keep it clean and attractive and to provide plenty of colour; there is of course no desire for uniformity. Judging takes place twice - once without prior notice and on the second occasion the judges can be shown around.

The B in B literature says "the more involvement, the better" and making an area more beautiful is what it's all about. So let us all do everything we can to impress the judges ...

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Postcard of the Village

The coloured postcard mentioned in the last Newsletter is now available. As before, Eve Noden-Wilkinson, 1 Old Bincombe Lane, is selling them; the price is 10p each.

Arising from the invitation mentioned last time, 22 photographs were received. The selection was made by fifteen members who were, of course, unaware of who took the photos. One of Marion Knight's photos of the pond area got most votes so it is that photograph that appears on the postcard. Many thanks to those who submitted photographs, most of extremely high standard.

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Village Fair, 1994 ?

Discussions are taking place on a suggestion that a village fair be held in Sutton Poyntz next year. As can be imagined, a lot of aspects have to be talked over so that, if the fair takes place, it does not go off at half-cock. Watch this space!

Incidentally, if anyone has any really good ideas or suggestions - particularly if based on experience of similar events - the Chairman would welcome them.

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And finally ...

A welcome pat on the back. At a recent meeting with the Chief Planning Officer of the Borough Council, he commented that our Society is regarded as a role model for judging similar groups. Over the years, achievements of importance to the village have been set out in Newsletters. Blowing one's own trumpet goes occasionally against the grain, so isn't it nice to have somebody in authority blowing for us?!