



# Sutton Poyntz Society

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

## "CROP CIRCLE FORMATIONS - THE U.F.O. CONNECTION"

The talk by Mr David Kingston of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, postponed in December because of his illness, will be held on TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane. Do come and hear and see all about it. Light refreshments served.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BRITAIN IN BLOOM, 1995

The village will be entering the 1995 competition. Crucial dates will be notified later but this early notice will enable us all to prepare our gardens ready for summer judging, won't it?

\* \* \* \* \*

## WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND LOCAL PLAN

Arising from the last Newsletter, a number of people wrote to the Chief Planning Officer commenting on the proposed changes to the Plan. An Inquiry will be held by an Inspector of the Department of the Environment on 15 and 16 February at the Portland Heights Hotel - a "neutral ground" - and will be open to the public.

\* \* \* \* \*

## DORSET (DRAFT) STRUCTURE PLAN

The Society has informed the County Council of our general agreement with this plan's proposals. We emphasised the great need to protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development; to preserve the quality of the landscape, wildlife habitats and historic environments; to protect the coastline and areas of outstanding natural beauty; to continue adequate waste recycling; and to limit immigration-led population growth. On the last point, we stressed that the County's attractions are its beauty, its Hardy-esque connotations and its immense potential for water activities; we said: "If villages become towns, towns become cities and county lanes become fully-fledged motor roads because of unreasonable population explosions, then indeed Dorset will cease to be its unique self and no longer attract visitors." Not for the first time recently, we said how paramount is the need to conserve all that's so good and lovely here.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE "SUTTON POYNTZ TREE"

The tree provided by the Society last year at the Preston Road/Sutton Road junction died for a number of reasons, including vandalism. It has been replaced by another, a red Norway maple. Every effort will be made to ensure that this one survives. Keep an eye on it!

\* \* \* \* \*

## ROAD SYSTEM IN THE SOUTH-WEST

Supporting the C.P.R.E., we urged on the Secretary of State for the Environment the need for an integrated transport policy for the South West. We said that road-building ought to play a reduced part in the strategy, that there should be full environmental assessments of projected routes, and that curbs on traffic should ensure sustainable development and countryside protection, with reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

A copy of our letter was sent to Mr Ian Bruce, our local MP, who kindly consulted the Minister for Roads and Railways. As regards

the proposed Brown Route for the Dorchester Road relief scheme, the Minister, saying that of course his Department supports capital expenditure on roads through the grants system, adds significantly: "However, the Weymouth project is not sufficiently advanced to warrant full consideration for support and we have therefore not entered into any financial commitment in relation to it." So, there's still some hope .. let's not give up!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SUTTON POYNTZ WATERWORKS MUSEUM

In November we contacted the Managing Director of Wessex Water about reports that this museum would close or have its opening hours reduced. We said that the museum is possibly the best of its kind in the country and is of great interest both locally and nationally. In his reply Mr Colin Skellett, the M.D., wrote:

"We have no plans to change the present operation of the Museum or its archiving work, apart from reviewing the public opening arrangements on Wednesdays. Prior to this year (1994) the museum has normally operated on an appointment basis; this year we tried having the museum open without appointment each Wednesday. In practice this attracted very few visitors, and on some Wednesdays none at all. Consequently we are going to revert to the practice whereby the museum can be opened by prior appointment. Let me assure you that we are committed to maintaining and developing the facilities at Sutton Poyntz."

There has recently been a discussion with senior management of the company to clarify a few matters.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### VILLAGE POSTCARD

A new picture postcard - a Noel Tatt limited production - is available, price 10p each, from Eve Noden-Wilkinson at 1 Old Bincombe Lane or Joy Eves at the Cartshed. You will greatly help the Society by buying some!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### COMING EVENTS

A Whist Drive may be organised by the Society in March - watch for notices giving details.

"IN PRAISE OF DORSET" (arranged by the Wildlife Trust). Roger Holman and Colour Sound: an audio visual experience of our landscape and Tony Bates's "The Seasons". Monday 13 March at 7.30 pm in the County Museum, Dorchester.

Preliminary Notice: The A.G.M. of the Society will be on Tuesday 4 April at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room. After the formal business an expert from Eldridge Pope of Dorchester will talk about wines; the whisper is that samples will be available. Please make a note of the date now.

This year's Great Dorset Beach Clean is on Sunday 23 April - an essential job of work. More details later.

\* \* \* \* \*

RBL Poppy Appeal - Sue Jones wishes to thank all in her area of the village who contributed £57 to last year's appeal.