



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

CHRISTMAS "A merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year to all." Last Christmas the village looked great with many fairy lights, decorated trees, etc. Several highly complimentary remarks were made. Let's keep up the good work!

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BRITAIN IN BLOOM The Gordon Ford cup awarded to the Village in July has been presented to the Society and is displayed in the Mill window, thanks to Maureen Morris.

The West Country Tourist Board has invited us to enter in 1996 and the SPS Committee thinks we should. But there will be a General Meeting of villagers on Thursday 25 January at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room, when an expert from Kingston Maurward College will speak, and folk will be there to answer questions. Please do come.

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WEYMOUTH CIVIC SOCIETY AWARDS Of four certificates of merit (out of 12 submissions) awarded by WCS this year, two relate to developments in Sutton Poyntz - the extremely well executed work done by Wessex Water for their new plant and the admirable conversions of the old barns at Northdown Farm undertaken by Mr Will Bond. Congratulations.

The Borough Council was involved in the development at Wyke Regis square which won the WCS plaque and also in the other developments which got certificates. We have congratulated all concerned.

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TRAFFIC CALMING This matter has been discussed with Borough Council officials, who are not unsympathetic to the Society's desire for steps to be taken to slow down traffic in Sutton Road and Plaisters Lane. Some improvements, e.g. road-markings, have recently been made and speed checks etc will be undertaken when possible. Finance is recognised as a difficulty in the borough, where several traffic calming schemes have been sought. Another problem is that, as regards Plaisters Lane, the northern section is not actually in this borough; whether something can be done in the light of that....?!

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SOCIAL EVENTS

- * The talk by members Michael and Sarah Smith on their travels, mostly back-packing, in India was extremely enjoyable.
- * The first ever car boot sale in the village proved successful and may well be repeated. Thanks to Jim White for the use of the Springhead car-park.
- * And Ronnie Waite's film show and commentary about characters and buildings of old Sutton Poyntz was a delight, enjoyed by a crowded Sutton Room.

Coming attractions:

- ** The B in B meeting on 25 January, already mentioned.
- ** On Thursday, 22 February, Mr Hugh Jaques, County Archivist, will come to talk to us. This promises to be an excellent evening, so do come to the Sutton Room at 7.30 pm.
- ** Reminder - The Barn Dance is on Saturday, 30 March in Preston Village Hall, with "Jump at the Sun" providing the music. Tickets will be available nearer the date.
- ** As has been separately publicised, there will be another Street Fayre in Sutton Poyntz on the last Sunday of June. What a great day the Fayre provided in 1994! The Society will again assist as necessary and will once more run the tombola. Three charities are to benefit from the proceeds of the Fayre.

Make a note of these events in your new diaries!

THE BROWN ROUTE AND WEYMOUTH RELIEF ROADS Representatives of the Society attended the pre-inquiry meeting at Weymouth recently; we will be represented as necessary at the full inquiry scheduled to start on 3 January and last perhaps three weeks.

As previously agreed by members, the Society has said it recognises the need for some relief to the road system but considers the Brown Route unnecessarily expensive and tortuous, seriously damaging to some lovely countryside and of no benefit to Portland, which is of course in great need of a proper road system now that the Royal Navy and the Defence industry have left or are in the process of leaving.

A copy of the County Council's case to the Inspector was received in August and a counter-submission made by the Society to the County Council and the Department of Transport.

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ARTS AND CRAFT MOVEMENT IN DORSET There will be a WEA course of six lectures on Wednesdays commencing 31 January, at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room; the tutor will be Mr Gordon le Pard, BSc, FRCS and the subjects will include stained glass, architecture, furniture, textiles, tapestries etc. The course fee is £16. For further details contact Margaret Brown, Cob Cottage (833033).

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PLANNING Plans were submitted to the Borough Council for the erection of five houses and garages on part of the site of the old St Andrew's School, Preston. The plans, happily, incorporate some open space.

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THE SOCIETY Some years ago we published a note from the then-Mayor of Weymouth and Portland praising the Society's work. It is a pleasure now to mention an unsolicited note received from the Chief Executive at the end of November; "May I, on behalf of the Council, thank your Society and other similar amenity groups for the contribution they make to the life of the town?" Well, thank you; we all do our best, don't we?

The smile on the Treasurer's face is mainly due to our finances being in a much healthier state than earlier in the year - the proceeds from the delicious cream teas in Old Bincombe Lane helped greatly. If there is agreement that we should enter the 1996 B in B competition, some money will necessarily have to be spent on flowers, plants and so on.