



Sutton Hoyntz Society

Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England

THE POND

Most members will know of the work carried out on the pond by the Dorset Wildlife Trust, with the backing of the Environment Agency, to promote a more natural environment in which a wider range of flora and fauna can flourish. The D.W.T. was particularly concerned that the habitat of the threatened water vole should be safeguarded. The project raised widespread interest and received coverage in the national press and on T V.

From the outset the D.W.T. and the Agency have closely monitored the project and are, in general terms, well satisfied with progress. But on their last visit they were concerned to find that a number of species not appropriate to the scheme had been planted. Although appreciating that well-wishers had put the plants in place, they emphasised that these represent a real threat to the pond's environment and had to be removed. Apparently some aquatic plants introduced into Britain have a potential to displace native plants - they may look attractive but can cause severe deoxygenation and may overgrow the pond. We have been asked by the D.W.T. to call attention to species which may destroy the pond's environment and to request that no more be planted. The offending species are:

- Parrot feathers (*myriophyllum aquaticum*)
- Australian swamp stonecrop (*crassala helmsii*)
- Fringed waterlily (*nymphoides peltata*)
- Floating pennywort (*hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)
- Nuttall's waterweed (*elodea nuttallii*)
- Canadian pond weed (*elodea Canadensis*)
- Water fern (*azolla filiculoides*)
- Curly waterweed (*lagarosiphon major*)

Further details and advice are obtainable from the D.W.T, Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester DT2 7AA. Tel: 01305 264620. E-mail: dorsetort @ CPX.CO.UK.

CONSERVATION AREA - EXTENSION

Earlier this year the WPBC Conservation Officer spoke to residents in the Mission Hall about the possibility of extending boundaries of the conservation area of the village. Proposals to extend the area to include Plaisters Lane and land to the west of the village beneath Chalbury were generally supported at the meeting and also in subsequent letters sent by individuals and the Society. The Council has now accepted the report and the conservation area will be extended; a brochure will be prepared by the Council, setting out the boundaries and dealing with further issues such as footpath enhancement and tree planting.

PLANNING PROCEDURES

Some members have asked for the Society's role in planning to be clarified.

When a planning application is made to WPBC, the Society is notified by the Council and invited to submit views. The Society's Planning Sub-Committee is responsible for drawing up the response, and in doing so it examines the plans and is prepared to discuss details with the applicant - but only if asked by the applicant to do so. Occasionally if an application arouses a great deal of interest (for example, the proposed erection of a huge barn off Puddledock Lane) our Sub-Committee may consult experts in order to strengthen its submission to the Council. In its reply to the Council, the Society always submits a written statement of its views but from time to time it has exercised its right (as can any applicant) to attend the appropriate Planning Committee meeting of WPBC and to make a verbal presentation to the members of that Committee.

In carrying out its work the Sub-Committee of the Society endeavours to reach a balanced view of each application and cannot be accused of taking a negative view of all planning proposals.

It must be remembered that the Society does not have any statutory powers to influence the outcome of planning applications. The decisions on planning are taken by WPBC who may or may not take into consideration the views of the Society. Any appeals against the decisions of WPBC are taken to an inspector appointed by the Government.

VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE

A message from the Chairman of the Street Fayre Committee:-

"The organising committee would like to thank all those local residents who helped and supported this year's event. The level of support indicates the popularity of the Fayre and from the numerous comments received, the desire to see it continue in future years.

The Fayre raised £9,000 for distribution to the chosen charities and the cheques will be presented to their representatives on Tuesday evening, 12 September, in the Waterworks Museum (by kind permission of Wessex Water). Residents and supporters are invited to attend the presentation, which will include the provision of wine and light refreshments."

The Society's direct contribution to the Fayre was the operation of the tombola stall, which raised £851.15. Grateful thanks are due to all members and local businesses who contributed prizes for the stall, to all those who manned it, and particularly to John Sutherland for organising and co-ordinating the whole tombola effort.

SOCIAL EVENTS

(1) Summer Walk - Richard Backwell kindly organised another enjoyable day-long walk on 17 July from Corfe to Swanage, returning by train and rounded off with a cream tea. The walk was well supported and much appreciated by all who went along.

(2) Cream Teas - The weather was again very kind to us on 5 August. A goodly number of people enjoyed cream teas in the beautiful gardens of Fox Cottage and Springfield Cottage. A raffle organised by Peter Jones raised sufficient funds to be put aside for the purchase of the Village's Christmas tree.

The Society thanks the Emerys and the Hailes for allowing us the use of their gardens, and also Yvonne Emery for opening up her kitchen. Julia Allen and Maureen Morris led a team of enthusiastic helpers, without whom the event could not take place. Special thanks are due to Jim Willis, who kindly provided transport to move tables, chairs etc, including a brave dash to Osmington, with John Allen riding shotgun, to rescue the Mission Hall tables that had been snatched by marauding fêters from Osmington. Fortunately they were recovered without a fight, and it is pleasing to report that there has been no formal state of hostilities with our neighbouring village! Let us hope they had a good day for their fête on the Sunday following our Cream Tea day!
