



NEWSLETTER No. 91

NOVEMBER 2000

Sutton Hoyntz Society

Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER at 10.30
in the Mission Hall

In addition to coffee, there
will be punch and refreshment
and a raffle.

Admission £1.50

CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE - THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER at 6.30 pm, to be followed (at about 7.30 pm) by mince pies and wine in the Mission Hall. This event has been organised by the Mission Hall Management Committee in co-operation with the Rector of St. Andrew's. The Christmas tree is being provided by the Society.

Preliminary Notice: The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held in the Mission Hall on THURSDAY 19th APRIL 2001 at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Mr Roy Adam, MBE, Chairman of the Society of Dorset Men. Please note the date.

PLANNING MATTERS

A number of members have expressed concern that land opposite Miller's Close was being prepared for development, and they have asked if planning permission has been sought. Enquiries have revealed that the new owner of the land is apparently tidying up the area, which has been neglected for some years; no application for planning permission has been submitted to the Borough Council.

FLOOD PRECAUTIONS

The excessive rainfall of recent weeks has raised the spectre of parts of the village being flooded, particularly the area near the junction of Plaisters Lane and Sutton Road, where the stream from the Waterworks joins the 'River' Jordan. Fortunately to date the watercourses have not overflowed and there has been no serious flooding, although the Jordan has been running for a period above its normal level.

Clarification was sought by the Society of the regulations allocating responsibility to the various agencies for flood-prevention measures. These regulations are extremely complex and are the more so here because the Jordan is not formally designated as a river and is thus not the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The onus of keeping the Jordan free from obstruction lies with the riparian owners; if they fail to meet their responsibilities then the local authority (in this case, W.P.B.C.) can issue an order requiring the owners to take action. In this sense, it might be said that the local authority has responsibility for supervision but little power to implement recommendations. In the case of the Jordan, complications are compounded because it flows under a major road and for that part of its course - i.e., a few yards in Preston Road - it is the Council's direct responsibility.

Possible dangers of the Jordan are well known to Council officers, and a scheme to make permanent improvements is in existence but is unlikely to be undertaken for years to come because of lack of finance. Any member who has a serious worry about flooding should contact Mr Robert George of W.P.B.C. (direct line tel. 206294), who will be pleased to offer advice.

WEYMOUTH CIVIC SOCIETY AWARDS

- (a) Congratulations to Lucy Emery who has gained a Young Environmentalist Award for her research report on the silver-studded blue butterfly and its habitat on Winfrith Heath.
- (b) A building award has been given to the owners of Manor Farm Cottage for the quality of the restoration work that has been commissioned.

SUTTON POYNTZ ON THE WEB

Thanks to a new initiative by U.K. Villages Ltd., Sutton Poyntz now has its own web-site:

www.uk.villages.co.uk.

Access is free. We have to thank Peter Jones for arranging this facility.
