

Sutton Poyntz Society



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

BRITAIN IN BLOOM

We've done it again! On 17 August the West Country Regional Committee of B in B announced that Sutton Poyntz has been awarded the PREECE SPECIAL CERTIFICATE for general outstanding effort in our Group - villages under 800 population in Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and Avon. The Group winner was Catcott, so after an extra judging of the three finalists, including Sutton Poyntz, we have won the prestigious certificate.

Very many thanks, once again, to everyone who helped make the village that much more colourful. And thanks, too, to the Council officers who re-arranged grass-cutting schedules to coincide with the judgings. Congratulations to Margaret Tambling who again won third prize in the local West of the Wey competition for her beautiful garden.

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Sutton Poyntz Victorian Street Fayre - 26 June

Local papers well covered this Fayre, but it's hearty congratulations to the Organising Committee whose work has resulted in £1,800 being donated to both Water Aid and the Trimar Hospice. The Committee thanks all who worked so hard in any way, and especially the Society who ran the tombola which raised £518. Now similar magnificent support is asked for in 1996!

In the Society's notice-box is a statement of accounts, which includes the amount taken by each stall. Those who did not take so much as others nevertheless worked as hard, and all contributed to the success and happiness of the day. Another "well done".

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"Ducking Around"

Good news, bad news, a little more good news - so says our worthy Duck Warden, Dave Caddy. Good news: the village ducks went into top-gear laying mood and have cost nothing for their upkeep as sales of eggs, kindly undertaken by Jim and Julie White of the Springhead, have made them self-supporting - 400 eggs have raised £40; and, says Dave, that's only from eggs he found!

The bad news: from the original flock of 15 (four drakes and eleven ducks) we are reduced to eight (four of each), which is not a good thing for either duck-laying or harmonious relations on the pond! Four ducks fell to cars and three to foxes. A little more good news: Connie, one of the survivors, has hatched four ducklings; fingers crossed that they are all ducks.

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Seat on Telegraph Hill

Walkers over the hills will have seen (maybe used) the grand new seat on the knoll above the fields. It is a generous gift from Wessex Water to the Society. We are all most grateful.

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Social Events

The whist drive in June and the summer walk in July were most enjoyable, although both were attended by fewer people than expected. Extraneous

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communication problems may have caused some absences from the whist; why more folk didn't go on the walk on a lovely summer evening is open to question. Dorset cream teas in August at "Wyndings" were greatly enjoyed by some 70 people; many thanks to Dorothy and Simon Emblen for hosting this year's party. Our winter programme is in embryo stage - announcements later.

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Review of Local Government in Dorset

All households in the county have been invited by the Local Government Commission to send in the form it has distributed, to indicate a preference for the pattern of local government in Dorset for the future. Because everyone has this opportunity to express views, the Society's Committee has decided that no useful purpose would be served by calling a meeting to discuss the matter. It is, however, most important, isn't it?

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Planning

The report of the Department of Environment Inspector into problems arising from the footpath diversion at Waterside Camp has been published. While broadly accepting the Camp's proposals, the Inspector expressed some disquiet at the lack of enforcement by the local authority.

Representations have been made by the Society to the appropriate authorities about the condition of the footpath off Puddledock Lane and an unsatisfactory barrier across that from here to Osmington. Discussions are continuing with the Chief Planning Officer and others concerned about new information panels on local walks.

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Thoughts on Sutton Poyntz

Membership of the Society continues to grow. That's not too surprising, bearing in mind the increasing number of dwellings. In a decade Brookmead, the Puddledocks, houses on the late Mrs Bailey's land in Plaisters Lane and dwellings on the Stables site have been built. There has been some infilling, and new houses on Northdown Farm are nearing completion. All the occupants are of course welcome. County and local plans envisage house building in this part of Dorset; and although the village is now something of a dormitory for Weymouth it's still most delightful and a joy to live in. There are a few green wedges, notably that between Puddledock and Seven Acres, which really must be preserved. That particular area was some time ago confirmed by a Ministry Inspector, who upheld a decision of the local authority to refuse development there and stressed the importance of open space between built-up areas. Great. But eternal vigilance ... We must all ensure that the Society's aims are never forgotten: "to make every endeavour to maintain the natural beauty of the village and ... protect the area from ugly and unnecessary development". Could there be better aims?