



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The village can be justly proud of itself on winning the second prize in its class in the B-in-B competition - the Abbiss Certificate. Of course there is disappointment in not gaining first prize, especially as Simon and Dorothy Emblen encouraged so many people to work hard to present the village at its best for the judge's visit.

However, it must be said that Sutton Poyntz is a place of great natural beauty and we have to tread a careful line between tasteful floral effects and going 'over the top', which would be inappropriate. This was the view of a previous judge and one which we support. A member of the Committee recently visited Catcott in Somerset, the winner of our class on this and previous occasions, and confirms that the winning formula adopted by that village is one of excessive use of baskets, boxes, mangers and troughs that cover the houses and streets and even the approach roads. Colour is there in abundance but it is verging, in his opinion, on the vulgar.

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DORSET CREAM TEAS

The residents of Old Bincombe Lane set a precedent last summer with their enormously successful village cream teas. Now, this year, the Village Pond Dwellers, under the benign leadership of Julia and John Allen, rose to the task and hosted a marvellous tea party for us all.

The kind offer of the Saunders family's lawn was indeed a godsend, being probably the best venue in the village at the very heart of things. It was indeed a happy occasion. The sun shone. The expertise and hard work of the voluntary band of friends so pleased all who attended, including a number of visitors who were delighted at this truly English affair.

Thank you, Julia and all your pals. Who knows what next year will bring?

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VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE

The following note has been received from the Committee responsible for organising the Street Fayre:

Many thanks to all of you who helped to make the Street Fayre such a success. There will be a presentation of the cheques to the three charities concerned on Thursday 3rd October at 7.30 pm in the Waterworks Museum. (£1 entrance to include cheese and wine).

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REDECORATION OF THE SUTTON ROOM

Through the good offices of Margaret and Norman Brown, the Rotoract Club of Weymouth

kindly agreed to redecorate the Sutton Room if the paint was provided for them. Generous donations from the Sutton Poyntz Village W.I, the Keep Fit Club and Mrs Harbour, topped up by the Society, provided the funds and the job was completed in late June.

Thanks are due to all concerned for this excellent team effort that has transformed the interior of the room.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

In addition to its involvement in planning and helping with events like Britain in Bloom and social meetings throughout the year, the Committee of the Society keeps a watching brief on issues that have a bearing on developments within the village or that cause concern to some members. Some of the current issues are set out below; it is hoped they are of general interest.

Traffic Calming

There is an on-going saga of correspondence and meetings with Council officials and elected members, but so far nothing has been done to tackle the problems of Plaisters Lane and Sutton Road. There appears to be a stock answer of lack of funds and a priority list, with Sutton Poyntz not at the top.

The new councillor for the ward, Councillor Weaver, recently invited comments from residents, and in reply to our letter he has said that "plans for traffic calming measures and pedestrian protection are being vigorously pursued". He did not indicate who was being 'pursued' or who was doing the pursuing, but agrees action is long overdue and something must be done. It would help if you could write to him - Councillor Weaver, 1 Hazeldown Avenue, Preston, Weymouth DT3 6HT, expressing dismay at the lack of action. Some residents have already done this, but the more letters that are sent the greater will be the pressure on elected representatives and officers to do something about this serious problem.

Vandalism and Theft in the Village

Recently there has been a spate of incidents, including the smashing on two occasions of our Victorian post-box, a number of cars being vandalised and flower tubs stolen. A letter was sent to Superintendent Thornley of Dorset Police asking for his assistance to combat these unwelcome developments and a quick and encouraging reply was received. The Superintendent asks that all who are Home Watch participants should report any suspicious activity immediately; in addition he has requested patrol officers to pay additional attention to this area. In the meantime, enquiries are going on into the recent incidents.

Dorset Structure Plan: Examination in Public

The Plan will receive "examination in public" starting in October. Because of its past record of making considered responses on planning matters, the Society has been invited - and has accepted the invitation - to give evidence to the Panel conducting the examination.

Planning Applications

Each week the Society receives from the Chief Planning Officer of Weymouth & Portland Borough Council a list of planning applications submitted to the Council, giving us the opportunity to comment on any of them. The Committee has recently objected to the following proposals:

- (i) use of the former St Andrew's School playing field as a caravan site;
 - (ii) building a new 4-bedroom farmhouse at Sutton Farm, Puddledock Lane.
- In both cases we felt that the previously agreed local structure plan was being ignored.

There has also been an exchange of letters with the Chief Planning Officer about the provision of vehicular access, without planning permission, to a field off Sutton Road.

The Pond and surrounding Willows

Concern was expressed by a number of members about the water quality of the pond and the state of the willows. Expert advice was sought from the Environment Agency and Dorset County Council.

The report on the pond and its sources indicated that the water quality was good but there was a need to keep a check on the build-up of sediment that may require cleaning out at some time in the future.

The report on the willows from the County Tree Officer recommended that action be taken later in the year to safeguard the long-term health of the trees. He offered three options: pollarding; the removal of some trees; and extensive pruning. Further discussions with all interested parties, including WPBC officers, will need to take place before a decision is taken on which option to adopt:

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- (1) Talk by Mr H Jaques, Dorset County Archivist.
Thursday 26 September at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room.
- (2) Talk by Mr Brian Searle on "The passengers, ships and car ferries in Weymouth Harbour, 1960-1990".
Thursday 24 October at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room.
- (3) Adult Education Service, starting September.
Anyone interested in the wide range of courses offered by Dorset Adult Education Service, or needing further information, should telephone 257174.
- (4) Christmas Function - early notice!
The Purbeck Quire will perform at Preston Village Hall on the evening of Monday 9 December. More details will follow in a Newsletter nearer the time.

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