



# Sutton Poyntz Society

*Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Dorset Branch)*  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

In the last Newsletter reference was made to correspondence between the Society and Dorset Police about a number of incidents of vandalism and petty theft. Following up on the exchange of letters, the Committee invited our Community Policeman, P.C. Rick O'Shea, to a meeting on 14 October. At the meeting P.C. O'Shea stressed the importance and success of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in combating criminal activities. He was pleased that most of the village is covered, with the exception of Sutton Close, Puddledock Lane and the area around the Mill. He sought help in obtaining volunteers for these areas, with the result that three members of the Committee agreed to contact neighbours to invite them to join the scheme. Ron Birch will take Puddledock Lane area, Maureen Morris the area round the Mill, and Don Brierley Sutton Close and the adjacent area of Plaisters Lane.

PC O'Shea also agreed to attend an open meeting early next year to talk to members about crime prevention and general policing matters. The date and place of that meeting will be announced in a future Newsletter.

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## WILLOWS ROUND THE POND

The Borough Council officer responsible for the maintenance of the willows has confirmed that action to maintain the trees in good order is needed. At a recent meeting of the appropriate committee of the Council it was agreed that there would be a selective removal of the weaker trees over a long period, together with general pruning. The officer is aware of the Society's concern that the environment around the pond should not be damaged and he has given an assurance that the Council is committed to maintaining the willow screen in its present form.

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## UNSOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A number of complaints from villagers - both members and non-members - have been received about the following:

Dog Mess: In spite of national and local publicity about the need to clear up the mess made by one's dog, it appears that there are still some people oblivious of the unpleasantness caused to others by dog excreta being deposited on gardens, footpaths and roads. The areas of the village most at risk seem to be Old Bincombe Lane, where the offending dog appears to foul gardens early in the morning and late at night, Plaisters Lane and Mission Hall Lane.

Burning of Garden Rubbish: Whilst it is accepted that from time to time it may be necessary to burn garden waste, most people do so at a time and in quantities which do not cause inconvenience to neighbours or others in the vicinity. Unfortunately everyone is not so thoughtful; it appears that fires have been lit without regard to the prevailing wind, time of day, washing outside, the need for windows to be open on hot days, and so on.

The Society was asked to publicise villagers' concerns about these two nuisances, in the hope that those concerned would respond by taking appropriate action for the greater good of the community.

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## PUBLIC SPIRITED ACTIONS

Victorian Post-Box: Thanks to Vic Farrant's skill the post-box is now back in operation. The Post Office was unable to restore the damage caused by vandals, but Vic came to the rescue and fabricated an armour-plated door that should provide an adequate defence against any attack in the future.

Refurbishment of Ship's Bell - Sutton Room: Many members may not be aware that a ship's bell (from HMS Bandit) has for many years been attached to the rear of the building. At the suggestion of Peter Jones and with the approval of the P.C.C. who administer the building, it was decided that the bell should be restored to its former glory and re-hung in the Hall. The first stage of the work was to clean and burnish the bell and this has been done by Graham Smith. Thanks to Graham for volunteering his services and undertaking the work.

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AGENDA 21 FORUM - The Society was invited to attend an "Information Evening" on 26 September at County Hall, Dorchester. Peter Jones and Mike Pressly represented us. Details of the scheme and its purpose are outlined in the paper below.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

\*\* Purbeck Quire: Preston Village Hall, Monday 9 December, 7.30 pm

We have been fortunate in securing the services of this well-known group of musicians for our Christmas meeting. Light seasonal fare and drinks will be served. To cover costs, there will be an entrance charge of £1.

\*\* Medieval Buildings

Roy Spring, former Clerk of the Works at Salisbury Cathedral, will speak at a meeting organised by St Andrew's Wives' Group. Society members are warmly invited to join them at 8 pm on Thursday 20 February 1997 in the Sutton Room.

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## DORSET NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

## DORSET AGENDA 21

At the Rio Earth Summit Conference in 1992 nations agreed that measures had to be taken on a global scale to improve the quality of life for future generations which at present is being compromised by our unsustainable life styles - this became Agenda 21. It states "All human concerns are independent. Health, education, poverty, social justice, exploitation of natural resources, environmental quality and many others all underpin our quality of life. If one is neglected, everything will fall apart".

AG21 has now been taken up by the County, and Dorset's plan for the 21st century, ADAPT, will be produced within 6-9 months. A lead forum has been established by people from all works of life; it will be assisted by sub-panels of volunteers to form discussion groups on specific topics. Amongst our community there is a wealth of experience and opinion which may be devoted to formulating ideas for Dorset AG21 Plan. Please come forward to assist, and bring this to the attention of your friends. An indication of topic areas is below, but the list is not exhaustive:

Shopping and consumerism	Energy and water	Transport and access
Natural environment	Food and agriculture	Poverty and crime
Public health and safety	Waste	Tourism
Economy and work	Youth	Built and local environment
	Community and sense of place	

Panels will be chaired by a member of the forum and will meet probably once a month at a time and place suitable to the particular panel. Compilation of the plan is on a no cost basis so there will be no travelling or subsistence allowances. This subject affects us all but, more importantly, its implementation will be a legacy for future generations. Action plans must be laid now before our present lifestyles create irreversible conditions.

You can play your part by contacting Richard Hands at County Hall 01305 224774 (Fax 224482)