



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Newsletter No 152 – February 2013

More information at suttonpoyntz.org.uk

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Bus bombshell

Whilst elsewhere in this newsletter you will find news on attempts to open up the byway tracks above the village to motorised vehicles, on the roads below the First Bus Company seem intent on REDUCING the number of their vehicles. They have made an application to completely withdraw the 4B service to Sutton Poyntz. These changes are not only a huge blow to the many elderly – and not so elderly! - people living in Sutton Poyntz, but also to holidaymakers who have a long walk, often with their luggage, up the hill past the Spice Ship to the Seaview Holiday Park. The 4B route is not subsidised by the Council but difficulties of reversing buses into Old Bincombe Lane is one reason given for the change. It's odd that green methods of travelling such as cycling are supported, whereas equally green bus services are being curtailed. Individual responses are needed, so fire off an email to publictransport@dorsetcc.gov.uk or a letter to Ben Hart, Dorset Passenger Transport, Environmental Directorate, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ if you want to try and save this vital service.

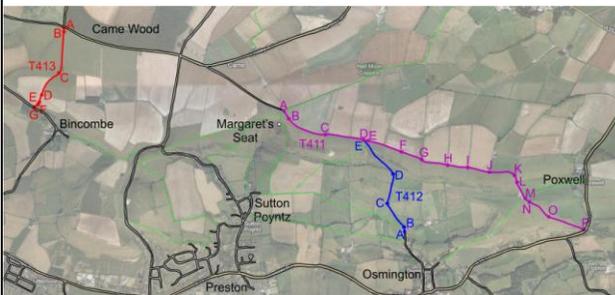
Getting a taste for it?

The Mission Hall was packed for the Wine Tasting evening. Bill Egerton introduced 'mine host' for the evening, well known local resident Jack de Carteret, who had worked for Eldridge Pope, and in 1964 became a Master of Wine, one of only 300 worldwide. Laura Jewell, the Chief Wine Buyer for Tesco's is one of the relatively few women in this select group.

A Master of Wine is someone who has demonstrated, by way of rigorous examination involving both the blind tasting of wine and written theory papers, a thorough knowledge of all aspects of wine and an ability to communicate that knowledge clearly. They actively encourage others in the pursuit of knowledge as well as seeking to bring wine communities together. Jack had selected six types of wine for the evening, and after a (small) quantity of each was tasted the audience were invited to give their opinion and an estimate of the cost. I enjoyed the wine and Jack's interesting analysis of each, but have to confess that my palate is not as well developed as I might have hoped. However I will keep trying! The evening concluded with a vote of appreciation for Jack's expert knowledge and much friendly discussion about what had been learnt over, of course, a glass of wine!

Push the BOAT out!

The Sutton Poyntz Society held a meeting in the Mission Hall to discuss applications to upgrade bridledways BR1 Bincombe to Came Down Golf Course, BRs11, 24 and 5 across the top of the White Horse via Pixon Barn to the A353 just south of Poxwell and BR26 from the bottom of Osmington to the top of White Horse Hill to Byways Open to all Traffic (BOAT) for use by off-road vehicles including motorcycles. There was an excellent turnout on a very cold night to hear Bill Egerton outline the proposed changes, which if approved would open up a long length of track to motorised transport. He made it clear that objections on H&S grounds, damage to the environment, noise etc were not valid.



The application would stand or fall on whether it was established that the track had been used by motor vehicles between 1985 and 2005 without hindrance.

By a show of hands the meeting demonstrated that it was unanimously against the applications and wished to preserve the tracks as bridleways. Anyone who had evidence that the tracks had little or no motorised use in the 25 year period was urged to write to the DCC Rights of Way Officer. Bill has produced a very informative leaflet entitled 'Conversion of Ridgeway track to BOAT' and he can be contacted on 832872, or go to the Osmington Village website at www.osmington.info,

Community effort

John Sutherland reports on gully clearing along Plaisters Lane. After all the rain and cold weather, a beautiful Saturday morning saw a small group of volunteers remove some of the accumulated debris alongside Plaisters Lane. Many thanks to Ian, Mark, Dermot, Ray, Guy and Mike for all their effort in rolling back years of neglect and clearing the way to the existing drains. Thanks also to Eileen for the coffee and Seamus for showing us that the younger residents can also get involved. Hopefully we have reduced the likelihood of ice on the road in this area.

Now's the time to dig in!

John Crisp has many advantages over me. For example, being short I have trouble seeing what is around the next corner, whereas John, being tall, can look far into the future. This is why he has issued a reminder about the Village Vegetable Show to be held on Saturday 3 August. If you are intending to take part in the Spud in a Tub competition it is now that you should be searching for the right seed potato. John says that the nursery in Owermoigne has a vast selection but by the time he gets there they've usually sold out of the championship winners. I think this is a coded excuse for him never having won the prestigious Des Evans trophy. But you have to be in it to win it, so make sure you plant your seed potato soon - this could be YOUR year!



Homewatch News

A Rural Crime Prevention event will be held at Kingston Maurward College on Friday 26 April between 9am and 4pm. This is a multi agency approach aimed at reducing rural crime and fire. It is sponsored by local businesses and members include Dorset Police, Dorset Fire and Rescue, the Dorset Community Safety Partnership. To register for this free event contact Police Communities on 01305 226864 or e-mail communities-team@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Can you help the Scouts?

Betty Hennessey tells me that the Scouts and Guides Spring Jumble Sale will take place on Saturday 30 March. and they desperately need jumble to sell to raise money. Please help by looking out your unwanted items and contacting Betty (833614). This is one of the major fund raising activities in support of the Scutt Hall which used by so many local youngsters, so do please try and help.

Forthcoming Events

Last Coffee Morning of the season Friday 1 March (I shall be wearing something appropriate for St David's Day!). The AGM is on **Wednesday 17 April** in the Mission Hall and the Village Vegetable show is on **Saturday 3 August**. Last but not least, we are arranging a Village walk are for **Sunday 9 June**, so now's the time to make sure your walking footwear hasn't been neglected.

This is the first newsletter under new editorship. For future editions if you have any news, views or anything of interest please contact me via my email address above.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Bill Egerton	832872	
Secretary	Shirley Davies		Treasurer (vacant)
John Crisp	832529	John Bellis	837162
John Sutherland	832227	Peter Riley	834653
Peter Sheaves	833338	Sue Wintle	834209
David Rees	833867		

Forthcoming Committee meetings (7.30, 3rd Wednesday of each month, in Mission Hall) on 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 15 May