



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Newsletter No 155 – November 2013

More information at suttonpoyntz.org.uk

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Newsletter Editor Chris Hubbard



The end of an era

Joyce and Freddie Litschi were founder members of the Sutton Poyntz Society and it is perhaps the end of an era now that due to increasing frailty they have moved out of the village. After leaving training college Joyce taught in Leamington Spa. Always



adventurous, she took a Cooks Travel Company tour of Switzerland, where she met Fredi - born in Germany with a Swiss mother - in Lucerne. Married in 1947 they moved to Streatham where Joyce became a deputy headmistress and Fredi worked in retail in the

West End. They 'retired' to Camelot in Sutton Road in 1966. Joyce taught part time in the children's section of Dorchester Hospital, was President of Weymouth Operatic Society and served with distinction on Weymouth and Portland Borough Council for 17 years, becoming Mayor in 1980. Fredi, himself a Dorset County Councillor, supported Joyce in all she did. They were founders of the SP Players and performed in many Thomas Hardy plays. Fredi wrote a very popular booklet about the village, and even adapted Hardy short stories into plays, donning a very fetching smock to appear on stage in these! Their daughter Isolde Martyn, who is an author of note, her husband John and married granddaughter Claire live in Australia. Caroline Crisp has delivered some flowers to Joyce and Fredi at Agincourt Care Home on our behalf. The picture shows Joyce's 90th birthday (l to r)) Isolde, Fredi, John, Rita (US cousin), Joyce, Yvonne (US cousin)

A Ghost in Sutton Poyntz?

At this time of year thoughts turn to ghoulies and ghosties and things that go bump in the night. It is therefore no surprise that John Willows, the curator of the Waterworks Museum tells me that spooky goings-on, including a shadowy figure in the workshop, have over the years been reported in the Waterworks. A number of people have reported a 'presence', and a researcher working late one night in 2004 heard a muffled voice, experienced someone watching him and felt an intense change in air pressure when moving between rooms to investigate. John thinks the most likely culprit could be Eric Aubin, who was Chief Engineer between 1948 and 1982 and who passed away in 1992. Eric was responsible for maintaining the four steam engines that powered the works, and his brother Phil was in charge of the West Knighton Pumping Station. Perhaps Eric is just keeping a friendly eye over what was his place of work for so many years!



Scutt Hall Jumble Sale

The Scout and Guide Autumn jumble sale raised over £500 for which we have to thank Betty Hennessey and her dedicated band of helpers, not forgetting all those who contributed items and, of course, those who bought them!. All the money goes towards maintaining the Scutt Hall for the benefit of our local youngsters.

Wire me with the information

As a frequent user of the footpaths around the Village I was finding it difficult to shut the second gate on the path behind what I still call the old stables (showing my age here!) because the loop of twine used to secure it was getting shorter and shorter. Someone has replaced the string with a wire ring, which is a big improvement. Well done to our unknown benefactor.

Cancer Research Coffee Morning

The recent Coffee Morning organised by Jane Young, with lots of helpers, raised £260 for the charity - a great effort.

A new Village Reading Group?

Jane Young is looking for people to form a new village reading group as the present group is full, She plans to meet locally once a month during the day to discuss books read so if you are interested contact her on 833408 for details.

Homewatch

The Association of Dorset Homewatches AGM was addressed by the Deputy Chief Constable of Dorset, James Vaughan. He said that, shed break-ins apart, the overall crime rate in the county is falling but budget cuts and the need to make significant savings over the next year mean that Dorset police will have to "do less with less". There will be reductions in some front line staff, cuts in support functions and a review of expenditure. However he emphasised that operational tasking will be met and that with improvements in communications and procedures the officers on patrol will foster the decreasing crime rate. More Special Constables will be recruited and the number of Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will not change. He stressed that the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner are committed to the furtherance of community Homewatch Groups and another 34 had been created in the County during the year. Peter trusts that you are receiving Homewatch alerts either by e-mail or hard copy notes. If not please give him a call on 833288.

Significant birthdays

Hopefully not giving away too many secrets, but both Simon and Dot Emblen are celebrating significant birthdays! Congratulations are definitely in order.

Coffee Morning

Overcombe WI are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning in the Mission Hall on Friday 22 November between 10.30 and 12. Entry is £1.50 with a coffee and homemade cake, with homemade jams and chutneys, bags, gemstones, jewellery, Xmas cards/crafts and homemade cakes on sale.

Planning

The Committee has considered a number of planning applications, including several applications for the management of trees in the Conservation Area. The Council Trees Officer is always reminded of our Society policy that trees should be replaced with appropriate species when felling is necessary

Storm damage

Some branches were blown down from trees around the pond by the recent gales, thankfully without causing damage to property. Yvonne Emery has arranged a visit by Southern Electricity and the management of these trees will be discussed with the Council.

Forthcoming events

- Coffee Mornings in the Mission Hall on the first Friday in the month between 10.30am and noon until March. The next, on Friday 6 December, will feature a display on the work of the charity 'Waves'.
- The Carol Service is on 16th December at the Mission Hall accompanied by the Salvation Army band. There will be baptisms in the pond afterwards.
- The Village Street Fayre will be 29th June 2014. Volunteers to serve on the Committee are needed, so call Guy Bridge (833343) if you can help..

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Chairman | Bill Egerton | 832872 | |
| Secretary | Shirley Davies | 319554 | Treasurer (vacant) |
| John Crisp | 832529 | John Sutherland | 832227 |
| Peter Riley | 834653 | Peter Sheaves | 833338 |
| Sue Wintle | 834209 | David Rees | 833867 |

Forthcoming Committee meetings

3rd Wednesday of each month, 7.30, in the Mission Hall

Please contact the editor with news, views or anything of interest at chubbard80@hotmail.com.

Deadlines for copy are 1st February, May, August and November