



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Newsletter No 158 – August 2014

More information at suttonpoyntz.org.uk

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Street Fayre streets ahead!

The Victorian Street Fayre was by any criteria an enormous success.

Good weather, good entertainment, good crowds - over 6,000 people - and a great atmosphere. Guy Bridges and his dedicated band of helpers from the village and further afield are to be congratulated on laying on such a marvellous day. There was something to see and do for the youngest up to the those a little older,



like me. Photographs are available on the Fayre Facebook page; have a look, you might be there! To name but a few, it was nice to see Paul Caddy cooking a meaty burger, Mike Haine at the Scout 'stick a dart in a packet to win' stall, Caroline Crisp looking fetching in her Far from the Madding Crowd dress, Guy himself with microphone in hand and so many more, most in period costume, helping throughout the day. I didn't spend too long in the Shabby Chic, because Pat Bellis failed to sell me



twice, and most of the 'classic' cars were brand new when I was a boy! The stages behind the Springhead and Wessex Waterworks - full marks to both for their support of the event - were a constant source of lively entertainment. I particularly enjoyed the Ukulele band and the Pantomime Group. And that's not to mention cream teas, sandwiches in the Mission Hall, Pimms on the lawn, children's games and a magician - how did he do that? - and so much more. A complete day out for the entire family in one of the most beautiful settings in Dorset.

Guy tells me that it has already been decided which charities will benefit from the over £20,000 - yes, that's right, over £20,000 - that was raised, and the donations will be made on a special presentation evening in October. Well done to everyone concerned.

Sadly the village has lost a stalwart of the SP Society Committee with the passing of Peter Sheaves after a long illness, bravely borne. Peter was an eminent chartered engineer, a director of a firm of Consulting Engineers, a Colonel in the Royal Engineers, an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers and a Freeman of the City of London. He also worked in Lagos and New York, and was a keen sportsman. After retirement he and Louise moved to the village in 2008 and immediately threw themselves wholeheartedly into local activities. He helped to set up the History Society, becoming knowledgeable about village life in the 19C, and, as a keen and expert gardener, organised the Village Vegetable Show. He was a founder member of the Biodiversity Group, undertaking numerous wildlife surveys and together with Dave Emery negotiated with Wessex Water for a conservation area on their land, helping design the paths and bridges for the woodland walk now open to the public. He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with Louise, daughter Ruth and all the family.

Homewatch

During the recent fine weather thefts from insecure outbuildings and sheds increased. Peter Jones has a Stay Safe booklet with useful hints on a range of safety issues in and around the home. If you would like a copy please contact him (see below) and he will gladly deliver one.

The Greenhill Fingerpost Project

The fingerpost at the junction of Coombe Valley Road and Plaisters Lane is to be replaced. Funds have been provided by village residents, local business, councils and BBC Radio Solent for new cast alloy letters, the most expensive items. Next come new direction arms, with site installation later this year. If you wish to support this project then please contact Peter Jones (833288 or PJonesHamp@aol.com)

Recent Events

Cream Teas were taken in the Mission Hall garden. Sue Wintle reports that the weather was bad in the morning which may have put some people off. However, although served in the Hall, the teas were eaten outside in bright sunshine and everyone had a marvellous time. Sue is grateful to Ruth, Maureen, Pam and Hilary for help in kitchen department, and to the strong arm group of gentlemen for setting up/storing away the tables etc. The proceeds will support the work of the SP Society.

Recent events continued

The Village Vegetable Show was a tribute to the local gardeners who produced marvellous entries despite the recent very dry weather. My In-house Adviser and I arrived in time for tea and a delicious slice of homemade cake - all included in the entry charge, which also entitled you to vote on the many and varied exhibits. I performed my judging duties, although I am more expert on cakes than vegetables, then it was time for the weighing of the spud in a tub competition, with the results shown on the digitally enhanced laser display blackboard. I counted eight entries (that's people, not actual potatoes, though some entries could not have been more than one large potato) and, in reverse order, the lowest weight was Caroline Crisp with 0.31 kg, closely followed by John with 0.33kg - not very gallant, that - but the runaway winner was Jane Walsh with 1.56kg, and she was presented with the Des Evans Trophy. The winners in the various vegetable categories received a certificate of achievement, and Jane Walsh again figured highly in the places. Bill Egerton paid tribute to, and asked for a moment of reflection for Peter Sheaves, Show organiser for a number of years who sadly passed away recently. Bill also thanked the ladies in the kitchen for their efforts, the entrants themselves and all who helped or attended. Then it was over to Dave Martin, who thanked all those who had taken the time and effort to create such a diverse range of scarecrows, and said he was delighted to announce that the competition had raised over £250, with the popular choices being at third Pat and John Bellis (Scarecrow 11), second Linda Turner (2) and the winner Barry White (10, the Knight). Barry is a newcomer to the village and it is nice to see him joining in so enthusiastically. Including the entry money a donation of over £350 will be made to Waves; a very satisfactory result for an excellent morning's friendly rivalry.



Stop Press News: The French Picnic was attended by over 70 people in the Mission Hall garden on a perfect English summer afternoon. There was lots of 'Je ne sais quoi', perhaps less 'Ooh la la' but a great time was had by everyone, and all praise to Maureen and her band of helpers for another lovely village occasion.

Forthcoming events

Although it seems we are wishing our summer away, the coffee mornings held on the first Friday in each month from October to March will soon be upon us. At each one it is traditional to hold an exhibition of interest. In the past these have included the Preston Pantomime Group, favourite books, first car, charities and village pictures. Peter Riley would be grateful for any new ideas for exhibitions.

There has been a suggestion that the Village might enter the Best Kept Village Competition. I wonder whether you think this is a good idea, and if so, would you be prepared to help with any work that might be necessary? Contact a committee member with your views.

Similarly, there is a proposal to open local gardens to the public next year if sufficient support is available. This will happen on a weekend to be arranged, between 2pm and 5pm each day, starting from the Mission Hall where refreshments would be provided. Around a dozen gardens are needed to make it worthwhile so if you have a garden you would like to display - and it doesn't have to be big, just interesting - then contact a committee member. Your Village needs YOUR garden!

Meet your new Committee member, Hilary Davidson



Hilary settled in the village 21 years ago, originally from Kings Lynn. She retired from teaching recently and now has some spare time - well, as much as any four times grandmother has! - so she joined the SP Society Committee to "help to put something back into the community". She finds the village a peaceful, pretty and friendly place and hopes that today's village spirit will continue well into the future.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Interim Chairman John Crisp 832529

Secretary Bill Egerton 832872	Treasurer John Sutherland 832227
Peter Riley 834653	Peter Sheaves 833338
Sue Wintle 834209	David Rees 833867
Tamzin Hyde 832103	Hilary Davidson 834479
Jacqui Atkinson 837361	

**Committee meetings 3rd Wednesday each month, 7.30pm in Mission Hall.
Please contact the editor with news, views or anything of interest.**

The next copy deadline is 1st November 2014.