



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Newsletter No 159 – November 2014

More information at suttonpoyntz.org.uk

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Plans to repair Margaret's Seat

Margaret's Seat, high on the hillside overlooking the village, has been damaged yet again. The cause is difficult to ascertain, and vandalism has been suggested. It is however difficult to imagine why anyone would take the trouble to walk a kilometre up a steep hill just to inflict wanton damage on a couple of pieces of stone. Mick Hobson, who had the original seat placed there, is understandably upset at what has happened, and is delighted that action is being taken to restore the seat to its former glory. It has been suggested that a single new stone, with the inscription 'Margaret's Seat', should become the resting place for weary walkers to admire the view over Weymouth Bay. You can sit there at any time of year, from the winter snow when your footprints are the only ones on the path through to the summer heat with Portland shimmering in the distance. It's a magical place.



In space? In clover? No, in Puddledock Lane!

Walking along Puddledock Lane I came across Ann hard at work clearing some of her ground. Now most people, when digging up weeds and turning over the earth, count themselves lucky if even a red breasted robin takes an interest in what they are doing. Ann, of course, goes one step better, because it was Henry the pig who was within inches of her, snaffling up all the newly dug up greenery and other delicacies. Ann told me that last summer two of her pigs sadly became ill and died, but two newcomers have been recruited to keep Henry company! Keep an eye out for them; they make a very pleasant sight as you walk along the lane.

Dues due!

Annual subscriptions to the Sutton Poyntz Society are now overdue. Any committee member would be happy to relieve you of your money, which would guarantee you continuing to receive future newsletters.

Village couple step into the breach

Betty Hennessey has, for a very long time, been organising the Weymouth East Scouts and Guides jumble sales which take place in the spring and autumn each year. The considerable amounts of money raised at these sales go towards the upkeep of the Scutt Hall, and would have been sorely missed if Betty had to retire from her role without someone taking over. However it is very pleasing to be able to report that Mo and Dave Martin have very kindly offered their support, and it is great to know that the fundraising is in safe hands again.

Thanks for sympathy and support

David Wilson and his wife Rita moved to Sutton Road in January but sadly in July Rita died as a result of severe head injuries sustained in a freak accident in the harbour side car park in Weymouth. David would like to convey his thanks for all the support afforded by folk in the village and also to thank all those who attended her funeral on 3rd October. He says that as we can imagine on that day he was so focussed that he didn't take account of all who were there, but was overwhelmed by the generosity of their thoughts and wishes.

Homewatch

At a recent community day meeting, the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner said that petty theft and burglaries had reduced but attacks against individuals had risen markedly, a worrying trend. He discussed travellers' sites, community Speedwatch, town centre CCTV, anti-social behaviour and the No Excuse campaign. Peter Jones and Alan McLeish also attended the AGM of the Association of Dorset Watches, addressed by the Deputy Chief Constable. He mentioned possible future integration with the Devon Constabulary, to provide the considerable savings demanded. However it is planned to maintain community policing levels.

New waste bins



A new dog waste bin has been sited on Sutton Road just before Puddledock Lane. This, like the other two located in the village, was made by Ray Aggett and all three are marvellous pieces of craftsmanship, useful but unobtrusive. Considerable thanks are due to Ray for his hard work on our behalf

A warm welcome

Most newcomers to the village receive a copy of the 'Welcome to Sutton Poyntz' leaflet, but if you meet someone new then it might be nice to ask if they have their copy; it's a good conversation starter too. John Sutherland can provide copies if you need them.

Recent Events

Maureen Morris and Jacqui Atkinson organised a Macmillan coffee morning at the Mission Hall which was very well attended. Lots of ladies very kindly made cakes and everyone who came was very generous with their donations, both for the coffee and cake and the raffle - which had some wonderful donated prizes. The total raised for Macmillan, a very worthy cause, was nearly £290. A delighted Maureen and Jacqui would like to thank everyone who helped, donated cakes and prizes and also those who attended, making the event such a great success.

There was an excellent turn-out for the first coffee morning of the season in the Mission Hall. Everyone catching up on the summer news - although with the mild weather winter still feels a long way off. In addition to the good conversation, coffee and cakes there was an exhibition of personal memorabilia which was extremely interesting. This included a pre-First World War passport for a journey to Russia - a one page letter signed personally by the then Foreign Secretary; a Canadian soldier's pay book from the First War, one of the fortunate ones who made it home unscathed and the 1928 school reports of Joan Harrison - who I can well remember as a venerable lady when we first came to the area. She came 2nd in her class of 16. Whatever happened to class sizes like that? The coffee mornings are held in the Mission Hall on the first Friday in every month up to March, between 10.30am and noon. At each there is a special theme. In November it is - or was - Homewatch, prepared by Peter Jones, and in December it will be a display of the SP Society's archive material, which should be fascinating. Do drop in for good company, excellent refreshments and interesting displays.

Forthcoming events

Pam Dawson-Hollis, Secretary of the Mission Hall Trust, says that there will be a Carol Service with the Salvation Army band outside the Mission Hall on Monday, 22 December at 6.30 pm. Afterwards, mulled wine and mince pies will be available in the hall. A collection will be taken for the Salvation Army.

Something is being organised in the Mission Hall for the evening of Wednesday, 18 February. I could tell you what it is, but It's a closely guarded secret so I'd have to kill you once you knew. Oh, alright. The truth is the plans aren't finalised yet, but keep the date clear in your diary. It's sure to be fun.

Apparently surveyors were spotted in the field opposite Sutton Close. If you notice such activity anywhere in the area please let a committee member know immediately. Forewarned is forearmed. Regarding development, the Village Survey - available on the village web site - shows the village as it used to be. For the AGM, which will be held on Wednesday 13 April 2015, the Society would welcome views from everyone as to whether changes that have occurred in the village are desirable, should stop now or be allowed to continue.

Jez Cunningham, Hilary Davidson, Ruth Egerton and Jane Young have formed a committee under the auspices of the SP Society to promote the Open Gardens Scheme. Gardens will be open in the village on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June 2015 between noon and 5pm. Twenty residents have already signed up, plus everyone in Old Bincombe Lane - they will display their front gardens collectively. The Mission Hall will be serving refreshments and there will also be a plant stall. I am told that those who would like to contribute to the stall should think about it now if taking autumn cuttings. As a non-expert gardener I'm not sure what that means, but put the dates in your diary anyway.

Dave Martin, who organises the Scarecrow Competition, is obviously a man who thinks well ahead. He has announced that the theme for next year's Scarecrow competition will be Comic Book Characters, which gives you plenty of time to put your thinking caps on.

Meet your new Committee members

Jez Cunningham has been co-opted onto the committee. A profile will follow in the next newsletter.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Interim Chairman John Crisp 832529

Secretary Bill Egerton 832872	Treasurer John Sutherland 832227
Peter Riley 834653	David Rees 833867
Sue Wintle 834209	Hilary Davidson 834479
Tamzin Hyde 832103	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 February 2015.