



# Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Newsletter No 161 – May 2015

More information at [suttonpoyntz.org.uk](http://suttonpoyntz.org.uk)

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## SP Society Annual General meeting

The well attended Society AGM in the Mission Hall saw Mike Blee elected as new Chairman. He was fulsome in his praise of outgoing Chairman John Crisp for all his hard work.

Mike would like to recruit more members so that the Society could truly be said to be representative of the whole village. Bill Egerton and John Sutherland continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and the rest of the committee were elected en bloc (see below). There were a number of topics raised under AOB, the major being the Plaister's Lane planning application (see below). Other topics included the refurbishment of the village beacon, which is under consideration, cost being a major factor; what was planned for the newly acquired land at the top of the pond; problems with seagulls and how to deal with detritus around the pond. The evening concluded with a well organised quiz by Jez Cunningham. This ably demonstrated how little we really see when out and about, as groans greeted questions about sights and artefacts in the village. The winning table were clearly more observant than e.g. me, a bus pass owner with obvious memory problems!



## Planning Applications

WP/15/00081/FUL & WP/15/00088/FUL: 15 houses in total on the field off Plasters Lane. The Society opposes this development on the basis that it offends against 5 of the 7 Society planning policies and in particular will do visual damage to the Conservation Area and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Details of the two applications are at

<http://webapps.westdorset-dc.gov.uk/PlanningApps/Pages/Search.aspx>

The closing date for individual comments is Thursday 7th May. Contact any committee member if you need advice on how to make a submission.

### **Half an acre yard up for sale**

Hunt's Timber yard, occupying 0.461 acres, is up for sale by informal tender (i.e. sealed bids) with a guide price of £550,000. No planning application has been submitted yet.

### **Please don't feed the seagulls**

Not the title of a Tom Stoppard play, but a plea not to encourage seagulls by offering them food. They cause a lot of mess, damage and noise, so please, let's keep them where they belong - out at sea.

### **Homewatch**

At the Association of Dorset Watches AGM Peter Jones heard about an assessment of job activities across the entire Dorset Police Force with the aim of saving money. The force is already severely stretched and more cuts will come. Initial plans show a slight reduction in community policing but efficiencies from personnel reassignment and the use of technology on the beat. To reduce paperwork all officers will have tablet computers, and head cams, already in use, may now provide evidence in court to save report writing. Weymouth CAB reports that scams are increasing in number, style and sophistication. Beware unexpected news, like a lottery that you are supposed to have won even though you have never bought a ticket and requests for money in advance, especially when you are asked to respond quickly or asked to keep matters a secret, thus denying you time to talk to family or friends. A member of our local Police PACT team will be at the junction of Old Bincombe Lane and Plasters Lane on Wednesday 13 May and 27 May at 5.30 pm. to listen to your concerns and discuss local security.

### **Jumble Spring success**

The Spring Jumble sale of the Weymouth East Scouts and Guides raised the magnificent total of £368 towards the upkeep of the Scutt Hall. Organisers Mo and Dave Martin would like to thank everyone who provided items to sell, helped on the day or turned out to buy the goods on offer. Without such support, and the hard work of Mo and Dave, the Scutt Hall could not be maintained for use by our local youngsters.

### **Help for Nepal**

As I write, Richard Backwell is organising a lunch to raise money for the earthquake victims in Nepal. I'm sure he will get a great response and well done to him for his prompt action.

### **Recent Events**

**Mum's The Word :** The Somerleigh Players performed this much enjoyed play in the Mission Hall, which was followed by soup and cheese and biscuits. Well done to Pat Dawson-Hollis for the organisation.

**Ready Steady Bake** : At a very well attended Ready Steady Bake event in the Mission Hall Chris Balfe disclosed secrets of the bread baking trade. Chris, an auditor by profession, turned baker just four years ago. He initially worked as an apprentice at Lyme Regis, where,



after finishing at 10am following a 12 hour shift baking 500 loaves, he needed a 20 minute sleep in a lay-by on the way home to recover! With the help of audience volunteers, Chris baked a sourdough loaf then bread rolls of all shapes and sizes, while we all enjoyed tasting the seven or more types of bread which Chris had brought along. His baking quiz defeated me, but the winners achieved 18 marks out of a possible

24. Chris then commented on bread and cakes brought along by villagers. After trying a bit of each, I have to say they were all delicious. Incidentally, Chris is multi-talented, a winner of last year's scarecrow competition, with, of course, a baker!

**Coffee Mornings** : The last two coffee morning of the winter season were the usual mix of good company, interesting conversation and delicious cakes. The display of programmes from events attended by attendees showed what a wide range of interests there are in the village, and the manuals relating to big boys (and girls) toys such as the Triumph TR2 of yesteryear brought back many memories.

#### Forthcoming events

**The Open Garden Weekend** : Seventeen gardens plus all the front gardens of Old Bincombe Lane will be on display on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June from noon until 5.00pm each day. At just £5 (children and parking free) this has to be good value, with a host of other events - an Art Exhibition, Children's Hunt the Butterfly Competition, craft stalls and refreshments available in the Mission Hall garden. Proceeds will go to Cancer Research UK and Water Aid and entry will be by programme, available from local venues or the Mission Hall on the day.

**Cream Teas** : This very popular event will be held in the Mission Hall garden (or the hall if wet) on Saturday 11 July between 2:30 and 4:00 - no need to book. Price not known but it's always very good value.

**The Scarecrow Competition** : This starts on Saturday 18 July and lasts until the Vegetable Show, on the theme 'Comic Book Characters'. Organiser Dave Martin will be putting information through letterboxes, but you can get details by ringing him on 836322

**The Vegetable Show** : All you green fingered gardeners start planting now, for the Show will take place in the Scutt Hall on Saturday 1 August. There will be all the usual categories - if you grow it, there'll be a category for it! - plus, of course, the keenly contested Spud-in-a-tub. **A Pimms Evening** : This new event will bring just a hint of summer to the village on Tuesday 11 August. No details yet, but put the date in your diary now and watch your email for more information.

### **Meet your new Chairman - Mike Blee**

Mike has lived in Dorset for 36 years, and he and Kate, married in 2001, moved to the village in 2010. They have three grown up children, twins Greg and Andy and Madalaine, all living in Bournemouth, two step daughters, Heather and Faye, and three grandchildren, Aaron, Yasmin and Samuel. In 1963 Mike started as a stage hand at a Beatles Christmas show in London, and has worked in the entertainment business both here and abroad, producing shows for major artistes including Eric Sykes, Ken Dodd, Norman Wisdom and Tommy Cooper. He is now semi retired, working as a part time lecturer in business planning at Bournemouth University. Moving here from Poole he was hoping to find a village with an active community, and Sutton Poyntz has exceeded all his expectations. Mike appreciates the beauty and friendship of the village, and its location close to coast and county town and joined the Committee because he wanted to put something back into the community. He believes the village needs to attract the younger generation, but appreciates that this is difficult in a rural community with limited local work opportunities and expensive housing. He feels it is important to keep a good proportion of permanent residents, with not too many second homes. A keen walker, Mike has walked the Pennine Way and enjoys live entertainment, rugby, cars, travel and a pint of real ale. A practising Buddhist, he follows the Japanese Soka Gakkai branch of the faith. For holidays he and Kate have a special place in Crete only accessible by foot or boat.

Brief email news updates are circulated between Newsletters. Contact [newsletter@suttonpoyntz.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@suttonpoyntz.org.uk) to receive these

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chairman Mike Blee 458763**

<b>Secretary Bill Egerton 832872</b>	<b>Treasurer John Sutherland 832227</b>
<b>Peter Riley 834653</b>	<b>Peter Dye 837139</b>
<b>Sue Wintle 834209</b>	<b>Hilary Davidson 834479</b>
<b>Tamzin Hyde 832103</b>	<b>Jacqui Atkinson 837361</b>
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Please contact the editor with news or views - next copy deadline 1<sup>st</sup> July