



# Sutton Poyntz Society

Newsletter No 178 – Feb 2019

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## The Sutton Poyntz Village Library and Information Centre

The story starts a year or so ago with a notice in the telephone box opposite the Cartshed, to the effect that it was surplus to BT requirements and would be decommissioned. Jez Cunningham wrote



to BT asking to purchase the box, for which they asked the princely sum of £1. But there was a problem! They would only sell it to a particular type of civic body, and the SP Society was not that type. The Mission Hall Trust was, but were understandably reluctant to take responsibility for assets nowhere near the Hall. The answer was for SP Ltd, which owns the Top 'o the Pond site, to turn itself into a Community Interest Company. Sounds straightforward!!! Things ground slowly

on, until one morning Caroline Crisp spotted a group of BT workmen about to remove the box. In best suffragette style she rushed between them and the box and demanded that they desist. Jez pressed on with the purchase process and eventually agreed a contract with BT. Rita and Colin Oxbly cleaned and painted the newly acquired property, for which grateful thanks. Village ideas were sought for its use, and these included a tourist information centre, book-sharing, another defibrillator site and a water-fountain. Defibrillators are expensive, and a water supply proved impractical, but work went ahead to install a leaflet rack, provided by Erica Ferrari and tailored to fit by Ray Aggett, which Jez filled with relevant information about the village. Outside, Ray made a planter, installed by Jez which Hilary and Bill Davidson filled with plants. They also added fairy lights at Christmas! Some books are in place for the book exchange, but Hilary would be grateful for more. Ring her on 834479 if you can help. Keep an eye out later in the year for perhaps a Scarecrow and/or a Halloween witch taking up residence. The village owes everyone mentioned a great debt of gratitude for all their hard work over many months. Well done indeed.

## **The Weymouth East Scout Group has a new leader**

The long search for a new Group Scout Leader for Weymouth East is over, as Richard Jefferis steps into the role. Mike Haine has held the post since 2005 and before that Mike was Cub Scout Leader for 27 years, a wonderful 41 years of service. As a youngster Mike joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Weymouth Scout Group which was then based at the Gloucester Street Congregational Church, since demolished. Firstly a Scout and then Senior Scout, he helped with the Cub Pack before getting married to Pat and moving to Preston in 1966. When his eldest son was eight Mike took him to the Scutt Hall to join the Weymouth East Cub Pack. With eight newcomers joining that evening, and leaders thin on the ground, extra assistance was desperately needed. Mike offered his services and began helping on a regular basis. Six months later the Cub Leader left for a job in the Midlands and Mike had to step into the breach to prevent the closure of the Pack. Others soon offered their assistance - Dave Caddy, Julie Goddard (who had been a Queen's Guide with the Preston Guides) and Malcolm Clough, who have all helped for many years. They have remained firm friends ever since, and have many happy memories of camps at Little Bredy with Gill Caddy and Pat doing the cooking, and the annual Cub plays at the Pavilion where Mike made all the props and scenery and Dave wrote the scripts. Mike will not be giving up completely, but continue as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader and as a member of the East Scout Group Committee. Many local youngsters have cause to be grateful for Mike's guidance and leadership over the years. Richard Jefferis has had a long association with the Weymouth East Scouts as a Beaver, Cub and then a Scout, and at present he is the leader of the Explorer Section. With a fine team of Leaders and Assistant Leaders the Scout Group is in good heart and it is a much needed part of the community. Richard can be assured that he will have lots of support in his new role and I am sure everyone wishes him well in his new post.

## **Winter Coffee Mornings**

As I write this there are only two winter coffee mornings to go, and by the time you read it there may be only one! There have been good attendances, and a copious supply of delicious cakes, so many thanks to Peter Riley for organising the events and to everyone who has baked a cake. The village could host an edition of the Great British Bake Off all on its own!

## **Don't panic Mr Mainwaring....there's a crocodile in the mill stream!**

Everyone is warned to be on their guard against a crocodile spotted making its way up the mill stream towards the pond (*see photo, taken at great personal risk by your extremely brave Editor*) This has been identified by a member of the bio-diversity group, who wishes to remain anonymous, as a *Crocodylius Acutus* of the larger sized American Crocodile species. He suspects that the animal, one of the rare sea going breeds, has crossed the Atlantic to escape from the Trump administration. If spotted, do not approach, but contact any member of the SP Society Committee. They have been given emergency training in alligator (which are very similar to crocs) wrestling and will engage the animal while you make good your escape. A Newsbite warning has been sent to all the ducks, but please keep any dogs away from the pond side, as these make a tasty snack for a crocodile. The W&PBC Council have been informed, and immediate action will be taken to maintain public safety once the Unitary Authority is well established, Brexit has been decided and pigs start to fly.



### **SP Society Annual General Meeting**

The SP Soc AGM will take place on Wednesday 10 April. Mark this in your diaries and please make every effort to attend. On behalf of the village the Society Committee sends out Newsbites and Newsletters, organises social events to bring the village together, manages village improvement projects and is the umbrella organisation for SPLtd, Neighbourhood Planning, Biodiversity, and History. And that's not all, so they keep pretty busy! This year Bill Egerton is standing down as Secretary after many, many years of dedicated service. Thankfully he has said that he will continue to look after the village website. Can you help? Committee members are still needed for just a few hours a month. Your village needs you.

### **Bench replaced**

Thanks are due to Dave Burge for installing the bench at the side of the pond. It will be a nice place to sit and watch the world go by when those balmy days of summer return. Surely that can't be long now, can it?



### **Project Pond - the works!**

Late last year Weymouth Council made a grant for improvements in and around the pond. Since then members of the SP Society Committee have been hard at work planning the work. A contractor has been chosen to perform a "material trim" to the willows. As he is registered to work near high voltage wires, the electricity will not need to be switched off, which will avoid disruption to village life, Planning permission for this activity has already been submitted. Another contractor will be installing drainage at the Top o' the Pond, to clear the large puddles that always form after heavy rain. Also the wall in that area, which has suffered damage over the last few years, will be repaired and re-pointed. The possibility of removing the build up of silt in the pond was investigated, together with a more long term solution to keep the silt away, including adding gravel and some bio engineering to speed up the water flow. Reluctantly it was decided that this work was not feasible due to the major cost involved and the difficulty in time and money of organising planning permission. A number of other minor projects are also under consideration. When completed this work should result in a considerable improvement to the character of the of the pond for many years to come.

### **Village events**

#### **Summer Coffee mornings:**

If you can cast your mind back to the heady days of summer you will fondly remember the coffee mornings organised by Jean Cunningham, Maureen the Mill and Hilary Davidson. As well as being hugely enjoyable, the six events raised nearly £460 for charity. Congratulations and well done to them for their sterling work, and a big thank you to everyone who turned out to make this possible. Jean tells me that the charities that benefited were Women vs Cancer, Sailability, the St Andrews Community Angels and the Horse Course. Not a bad result from a bit of coffee, cake and conversation.

#### **Children in Need**

In November a small portion of the village set out to feed a much larger part to raise money for the BBC Children in Need Appeal. And it was a huge success, with a steady stream of customers and helpers, copious supplies of delicious homemade cakes, soup courtesy of David Burge and Shirley Davies and freshly baked rolls from Balfey, our own master baker. With the large jar in the Mission Hall named Pennies for Pudsey contributing £130 over just three weeks and the raffle adding another £100, Maureen is pleased to report that nearly £750 was raised on what was a very pleasant and productive day. Plaudits all round again.

### **Chatty Crafty Group**

An initiative by the Village WI, the Crafty Chatty Group, has proved a great hit. The idea was to brighten up Monday mornings by offering the opportunity for anyone and everyone to gather socially in the Mission Hall, to enjoy one another's company and to share craft and other skills/expertise. For instance there was a flurry of card making just before Christmas, the strumming of ukuleles could be heard and there was needlework of all sorts. In answer to a local police request for 'Bobby Buddies', the Group have been producing small knitted Teddy Bears. These are given to distressed or hurt children by the mobile police units who look after them. The bears are also used by Weymouth Community Hospital for children attending the walk in unit and specialist clinics. And the charity work doesn't stop there, because Joyce Peel says that they have also managed to raise £200, which has been shared between the St Andrews Community Angels and Fortuneswell Cancer Trust. This is a first class addition to village life, so why not drop in - any Monday morning between 10am and noon in the Mission Hall.

### **The lighting of the beacon on 11 November**

Sunday 11 November 2018 was a particularly poignant day, marking the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War. The village joined in the commemorations with a short service at the war memorial in St. Andrews churchyard at 11 am, when the names of all those from the parish who died in both world wars and the Falklands war were read out. Later that evening at 7pm the beacon above the village was lit - thanks to all those who made this possible - as part of the 'Beacons of Light' commemoration taking place all over the country. In front of a sizeable gathering the names of those local people who made the supreme sacrifice were again remembered.

### **Christmas Carols**

The Lessons and Carols Service outside the Mission Hall led by Rev Tim and with the invaluable contribution of the Salvation Army Band, was well attended and most enjoyable. On a relatively still and not too cold night the message of the readings and carols took on an even deeper meaning, Some donkeys braying in the background added to the Christmas spirit. After the service there were baptisms at the pond, something that has become a fine tradition, of some rarity I suspect. Mulled wine, coffee and mince pies in the Hall itself rounded off a marvellous start to the festive season. Long may it continue.

## **Help for Nepal after the earthquake**

In 2015 Nepal was hit by a massive earthquake which caused many deaths and enormous destruction to houses and public buildings. Nothing can recover the lives lost, but work has been progressing to repair the shattered homes. This has been hampered by the remoteness of many of the communities, the lack of transport links and a shortage of funding. For many years Richard Backwell has been a friend to one such community, the area in and around Okhle Village, and many Sutton Poyntz villagers have visited the area with him. To raise money for the repair of the school, Richard is inviting everyone to a fundraising evening in the Mission Hall on Wednesday 27 February at 7.30pm. It will comprise a brief talk on how the Okhle Village Trust started and what has happened to Samjur School since the earthquake. There will then be 30 minute film show illustrating the work of the Trust and local Rotary Clubs in supplying water to the area. This will be followed by a casserole/chilli/curry with jacket potatoes supper - bring your own wine, beer, soft drink or whatever takes your fancy. The cost is £10 per head, and tickets will be on sale from 10 February from Ruth Davies 833798 or Richard Backwell 833349. This is an excellent opportunity in a convivial atmosphere to help Richard's efforts rebuild a devastated community. Do give him your support.

### **Stop Press**

Pru Bollam will be giving a talk entitled "E Wamsley Lewis, Architect" on Wednesday 27 March at 7.30pm in the Mission Hall, with refreshments included. No charge, but donations accepted at the door. Tickets from Bill Egerton ([history@suttonpoyntz.org.uk](mailto:history@suttonpoyntz.org.uk) or 832872).

### **Business matters**

**Minutes** of the Society monthly committee meetings are on the web site.

**Newsbites** are email news updates. Contact [newsletter@suttonpoyntz.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@suttonpoyntz.org.uk) to receive these. Jez also displays them on the Cartshed notice board.

**Organising an event?** Send the editor a reminder about a week before it takes place so that a Newsbite can be circulated.

**Neighbourhood Plan** - see progress at [suttonpoyntz.org.uk/neighbourhood](http://suttonpoyntz.org.uk/neighbourhood)

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chairman TBA**

**Secretary Bill Egerton 832872 Treasurer Andy Hohne 07946 323681**

**Peter Riley 834653 Jez Cunningham 835811**

**Hilary Davidson 834479 Jackie Greet 833557**

**Jill Kelsey 835605 Shirley Davies 520356**

**Chris Balfe 07969781145**

**Please contact the editor with news and views, but make sure your input is with him by 30 April at latest, ready for the next issue.**