

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2018 - Sutton Poyntz Society**

Today marks the end of my term of office as Chair of the Sutton Poyntz Society and therefore it is a time for me to express my appreciation to all of you; my thanks go to the officers, Sutton Poyntz Society members and the committee for their guidance and support.

We have a number of our hard working committee deciding to stand down this year Liz Balfe, Sue Wintle and Peter Dye. I shall also be leaving the committee having reached the end of my three year term as Chairman. Peter Dye and I are moving over to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which Peter has agreed to chair.

This has left the committee short of members and therefore we are urgently looking for more of the community to become involved. It is a very necessary function if we are going to continue the number of events that improve the social life of the village. The next two years will be crucial for the Society as it is also the Neighbourhood Forum and as a result in the longer term it will be taking over from the steering group the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

Unless there is a nomination from the floor at the AGM the new chairperson will be elected by the committee at their first meeting in May.

Hopefully you have found the last three year's AGM's interesting with proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan, the discussions on becoming a Parish and tonight we are especially pleased to welcome Sandra Brown and Doug Pigg who will be discussing the possibility of a National Park being established in parts of Dorset and East Devon which I understand will include our village. Following last years discussions on becoming a Parish the committee decided to await local Government reorganisation clarification before making a further recommendation.

In addition to commenting on tree and planning applications The Society has organised the annual village clean up and has just completed work restoring the Bench outside Brookmead. The social functions included coffee mornings, cream team, vegetable show, Pimms picnic, a village walk and history evenings. These events rely heavily on volunteers and I would like to record my appreciation of their efforts.

The bus service continues though I appreciate it is a shadow of the one we formerly enjoyed but this provision by First Bus is reliant on having sufficient passengers.

There were concerns raised again around the issues caused by parking by the village pond and the Society were pleased to see that the Springhead Public House had provided at peak times an overflow carpark which had alleviated the situation.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are looking at a number of issues and an update is given in the survey results newsletter issued at the beginning of April. The Neighbourhood Plan process continues to a very tight timetable and the village will be receiving updates on its progress through the Steering Group's separate newsletters.

Other news: The Society is hoping to purchase the village phone box through Sutton Poyntz Ltd and there will be more on the fundamentals of undertaking this purchase later on in tonight's meeting. The defibrillator is now successfully installed at the Springhead Public House and training has been given by the first aid responder. During the year the Society and Street Fayre committee marked John Willows of Wessex Water retirement and thanked him for his many years of support.

I wish the Society all the best under its new Chair and committee.

Mike Blee April 2018