



# Sutton Poyntz Society

Newsletter No 173 – November 2017

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

With thanks to our Newsletter sponsors [www.goadsby.com](http://www.goadsby.com)

Editor: Chris Hubbard [chubbard80@hotmail.com](mailto:chubbard80@hotmail.com)



## Could you be an Angel?

We should all be keeping an eye out for difficulties that our neighbours may be experiencing, and helping where we can. One marvellous local organisation which does this, and a good port of call if help is needed, is the Community Angels. This idea was 'conceived' in 2009 when the Church realised it could not visit all those it knew to be in need. A franchise Manchester scheme investigated by Rev Tim West was financially impractical, but following discussions, the possibility of starting an independent St Andrews alternative was suggested. After a meeting of parishioners and the local Women's Institutes on a snowy February afternoon in 2009, with finance from anonymous parishioners and funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund, enough volunteers came forward to start the scheme. A registered charity, it is administered by St Andrew's Church with assistance from Preston Road Doctors' Surgery. Its aim is to provide a free support service for the people of Littlemoor, Osmington, Overcombe, Preston, Poxwell and Sutton Poyntz. All Community Angels volunteers are interviewed, supervised, police checked, insured and carry an identification badge. They attend regular training sessions and strictly respect confidentiality unless someone is at risk. There are currently 50 volunteers (but they could always do with more!) who undertake a variety of tasks - befriending, shopping, small errands, transport, accompanied walks, help with correspondence, gardening, companionship and dog walking. Last year they made over 3000 visits, went along on 250 accompanied trips to hospitals/doctors, hosted 100 Welcome Clubs and tea parties, served 400 lunches at their lunch club, made countless shopping errands and walked over 500 dogs! Perhaps a couple of quotes can sum up what has been achieved: - from a Neighbour " I woke up this morning feeling sad but then I remembered the Angels were coming and I began to smile" and from an Angel "I spend time with a Neighbour and they enjoy it, but so do I. There is definitely a 'feel good' factor in being an Angel."

The Community Angels can be reached at the Team Office, open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3pm in the Church Rooms, by phone on 834866, email at [standrewsangels@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:standrewsangels@hotmail.co.uk) So if you would like someone to visit you for a chat, perhaps to play cards or even accompany you on a walk, or you could do with a helping hand once in a while, contact the Community Angels or ask anyone in the village to do it for you. Or perhaps YOU are an Angel in disguise or could help their work with a donation? Remember - YOUR neighbours need YOU.

### **Number 1 Plaisters Lane**

Number 1 Plaisters Lane is the BT phone box; it even has its own post code! Jez has discovered that the phone box has been decommissioned and could be 'adopted' by a suitable village charity organisation for the princely sum of £1. There are no onerous liabilities associated with this adoption. BT will continue to supply electricity without charge, will even apply to the council for change of use planning permission, and Colin Marsh has volunteered to repaint it. Many thanks, Colin. Hopefully the application process is underway as I write, so all that remains is for us to decide what we want to do with it. Various ideas have been floated - sheltered accommodation for elderly village canines was rejected - so if you have any suggestions (practical ones, please) let me know.



### **...and whilst in that area**

Mo Martin has suggested that the bench adjacent to the phone box should be made more accessible. A number of elderly people like to use it while out walking (personally I use the bus stop bench. But I digress). In the past cars have sometimes blocked access, but this might cease if the bench was spruced up. This could be achieved by cleaning, treating or replacing the wood and clearing away the overgrown foliage. Perhaps it might even be moved forward a foot or two? Jez thinks that peripheral visual distractions (his words; I'm not sure I fully understand them) act as traffic calming measures so with the seat and phone box more obvious, traffic may slow down a bit. The history of who installed the bench is obscure - do you know anything about it? - but people are willing to help; they just need someone to organise them. Could this be you? If you can spare a little time, let me know.



### Homewatch

Peter Jones reports that a mobile trader recently selling foodstuffs from a van was aggressive and intimidating. Peter contacted the company involved, and gained an apology and an assurance that the salesman would be interviewed and would not visit us again. Please let Peter know asap about any unwanted callers, with their contact details and, of course, report to the police on 101. Please tell your neighbours if you are going away, and ask them to keep an eye on your property. If you have an alarm, let them have access to the property, or at least know who to contact if the alarm goes off and if an alarm sounds please don't assume it is a technical fault. There may be an intruder and the police should be called. The recent affiliation with the Devon Police Force will hopefully strengthen aspects of the local force which is under severe budget restraints. Talks of affiliation with the Cornwall force are underway.

### Village events

Some recent events in the village (not necessarily in chronological order) that you may have missed or would like to recall -

#### Moroccan Delights

Recently the Mission Hall became the site for that most modern of phenomena, a pop-up restaurant. A packed Mission Hall enjoyed a taste of the Middle East with starters that I cannot pronounce or spell, but which were delicious, followed by Cous Cous (wonder why that's written twice?) two sorts of Tagines (don't ask because I don't know) and salad. With a dessert from the desert and your own choice of wine to wash it all down it was a most enjoyable occasion.

#### History Society Film Night

I couldn't make the film night in September as I was in the Land of my Fathers, but by all accounts it was an outstanding success. An excellent turn-out enjoyed the films presented by Debra and Ali of the Windrose Trust. They also collected a number of names of willing interviewees, including people whose memories of the village are very important - Elizabeth Saunders, Dot Emblen & Dave Caddy to name but three - and the evening was plainly a success for the "Handing Down Heritage" project. Bill Egerton would like to thank those who served the refreshments and helped clear up afterwards - we also owe him a vote of thanks. He says that he was allowed to keep a copy of the films on his laptop, so anyone wanting to look at any particular bits again should contact him.

## The Mission Hall Alfresco Lunch

Over 60 villagers sat at tables under gazebos (that's a posh word for big tent), on a lovely sunny afternoon in the Mission Hall garden. There



was a wonderful spread of food - turkey, ham, quiche salads, chutneys with roulades, cheesecake and strawberries and cream to follow. The buzz of conversation showed that everyone was having a good time. There were many willing hands to clear away; Dave Caddy caught his fingers when closing a gazebo, but bravely carried on. It was a

marvellous event, and all those who worked so hard to make it successful deserve a big thank you.

## Village Vegetable Show

The event began in bright sunshine, with a high standard of entries in all classes. Everyone who attended was eligible to vote for their favourites, and Hillary and Chris, with superb unflappability, worked hard at vote counting even when the rains came down on their outside



table. The most keenly contested classes, with ten entries apiece were the Longest Runner Bean and Three Beans, won by Tony Heathershaw and Ros Evans respectively. At the other end of the scale there was only one entry in the Single Lettuce class - but as someone said, it couldn't have been the Single Lettuce class if there

had been more than one entry. Anyway, it was won by Colin Marsh. I also noted that in the 'Five Soft Fruit' Class one plate had eight fruit on it! The

Spud in a Tub competition was, as ever taken very seriously indeed. The earth from each of the seven tubs was sieved for hidden potatoes, and the results

were weighed digitally and recorded on the state of the art electronic scoreboard. Unfortunately this blackboard blew down in the storm, and judging was completed under a torrential downpour.



Your intrepid reporter stayed out in the rain to record the results as :

T&A Heathershaw 1.35kg; Loop 1.205kg; Dot Emblen 1.006kg; Jane Walsh 0.997kg; Joyce Faraday 0.952kg; Ros Evans 0.846kg; Bill Egerton 0.689kg

Most people then retired indoors to escape the deluge, while others moved the gazebos which had roofs full of water, a lot of which seemed to pour onto Paul Caddy. Inside, over the delicious cakes and tea/coffee, Jez announced the other results of the spirited but



friendly(?) competition as :-

Heaviest Marrow, Tony Ferrari; Selection Herbs, Liz Bell; 3 Carrots, Sarah Ayling; 3 Tomatoes, Ros Evans; 3 Courgettes, Mike Haine; 5 Soft Fruit, Dave Langridge; Anything from greenhouse, Poppy Cantrill; Any other Vegetable, Dave Caddy; Bunch Flowers, Pat Haine; Bunch Leaves, Erica Ferrari; Longest Cucumber, Dave Langridge\*

\*Dave claimed later that it was wife Wendy that grew the cucumber (but is this just an attempt to generate marital harmony?)

Jez announced that £150 had been raised for local charities, a marvellous result. He

thanked everyone who helped with the multitude of tasks required to put on the show. Of course he is also due a vote of gratitude for his organisation of what turned out, despite the weather, to be a thoroughly enjoyable event. Stop Press : the Scarecrows may be back again next year.

### **Summer Coffee Mornings**

These coffee mornings, organised by Jean Cunningham, Maureen Morris and Hilary Davidson raised money for six charities - The Lantern, The Bus Shelter, Community Angels, M.V. Freedom, Kartability and Chesil Sailability. All in all a grand total of £480 was donated to well deserving local charities meeting a wide variety of needs. Thanks are due to the three ladies above, their cake making helpers, table/chair arrangers and others. Not forgetting, of course, everyone who came along to support their endeavours, enjoy themselves and learn something about what the charities do and the enthusiastic volunteers who make it possible.

## Forthcoming events

### Winter Coffee Mornings

We have now moved seamlessly from the Summer Coffee Mornings to the Winter Coffee Mornings, and there was an excellent atmosphere despite a slight drop in numbers in October. The quality of the cakes and coffee is undiminished. Interestingly the morning split along gender lines, with two tables of ladies and one of gentlemen (although John Allan sat with the ladies so we know what went on). The coffee mornings are held on the first Friday in the month (3 November, 1 December, 5 January, 2 February and 2 March) at the Mission Hall between 10.30am and noon. £2 provides cake and coffee and all the conversation you would wish. See you there.

### Winter Socials

If you have any ideas on what might make a good Winter social event, let us know. Nothing too complicated, please.

### Correction

After the article on Parish Council Status in the Newsletter 172, Andrew Price sent us a correction saying that "Weymouth Town Council would operate under a DORSET (not West Dorset) Unitary Authority which would include Purbeck and possibly both East Dorset and Christchurch districts as well as the three mentioned. Regrettably Bournemouth and Poole are determined to go their own way as a combined Unitary Authority!" Thanks for that, Andrew; it's nice to get feedback, even if it is a correction.

### 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 Mike Blee 568135**

**Secretary Bill Egerton 832872**

**Treasurer Terry Pegrum 834303**

**Peter Riley 834653**

**Jez Cunningham 835811**

**Sue Wintle 834209**

**Hilary Davidson 834479**

**Peter Dye 837139**

**Jill Kelsey 835605**

**Liz Balfe 837320**

**Jackie Greet 833557**

**Please contact the editor with news and views, but make sure your input is with him at latest by 31 January, ready for the next issue.**