



Sutton Poyntz Society

Newsletter No 178 – July 2019

More information at suttonpoyntz.org.uk

With thanks to our Newsletter sponsors www.goadsby.com

Editor: Chris Hubbard chubbard80@hotmail.com



Some history at the pond

As both serve the village well it would be a moot point as to whether the Mission Hall or the Springhead is the social centre of the village. However there can be no doubt as to the pictorial centre of the village, which is the pond. It is deserving of the care and attention lavished on it in the recent past - a "material trim" to the willows, drainage at the



Top o' the Pond to prevent puddles forming, repair and re-pointing of the wall, reducing the reed beds and the village clear out - that have all helped to restore it to its pristine former glory. Well done to all those who organised or took part in the work to make this

happen. The pièce de résistance can be seen in the History Board located at the Top o' the Pond. The Board was sponsored by Isolde Martyn, the daughter of Joyce and Fredy Litschi, who lived at Camelot in Sutton Road for many years from 1966 onwards, Joyce was President of Weymouth Operatic Society, a W&P Councillor for 17 years, and Mayor in 1980. Fredy, a Dorset County Councillor, supported Joyce in all she did. They were founders of the SP Players and performed in many Thomas Hardy plays. Fredy even adapted Hardy short stories into plays, donning a very fetching smock to appear on stage himself! He loved Sutton Poyntz and researched and published a popular history of the village. There is no doubt that the village owes him a great debt of gratitude for his pioneering work on behalf of the SP Society which helped maintain the village we know and love today. Isolde, her husband John and their daughter Claire live in Australia, but the History Board is a fine reminder of the family connection with the village. Thanks also due to History Group for their hard work in researching and preparing the content for the Board.

Bench press



The Chinese name their years after the animals in Chinese astrology e.g. 2109 is the Year of the Pig, but for the village the year 2019 could rightly be known as the Year of the Bench. The last



Newsletter mentioned that Dave Burge had installed the bench at the side of the pond, Then Jez Cunningham contacted Wessex Water who, via their Watermark Award scheme generously supplied a new, virtually indestructible, bench which was presented by Paul Delves (Southern Projects Manager) at a Summer Coffee morning and installed later that day by the heavy gang - Jez, Peter Dye, John Bellis and, of course, Dave Burge. Then recently it was noticed that the bench at the bus stop in Sutton Road had suffered from the ravages of time - as you can



see - and an appeal for help went out. Guess who responded with the removal of the old seat and the installation of a new one? A clue is the shadow in the picture. There is no doubt that



if SP was a Welsh village he would be known as Burge the Bench!

Treating Water Well

Wessex Water are investing £3.7 million in water quality improvement work at the water treatment centre, starting in July 2019 and lasting 12 months. To comply with the latest drinking water treatment standards they will be replacing worn-out equipment and installing new chemical treatment plant and equipment, including a new UV disinfection building, new pumps in the pump hall, a new chemical dosing building and general upgrades. During construction there will be increased traffic through the village. A temporary compound will be set up adjacent to the site with temporary access from Plaisters Lane. The public right of way past the site will be maintained with a managed crossing throughout the construction period. The water treatment centre car park will be unavailable during the work, but otherwise public access will be maintained. An archaeological team will investigate any findings along the temporary access track, and all the proposed new buildings will be well screened.

SP Society Annual General Meeting

The AGM in the Mission Hall on 10 April 2019 was well attended, and heard an interesting and informative talk on the challenges of farming in the 21st century given by Peter Broatch, with particular reference to local farming and diversification into camping. He was thanked by Chair Bill Egerton to warm applause. Following refreshments Bill welcomed everyone and introduced Andy Hohne as current co-opted treasurer. The 2018 AGM minutes were accepted and the Annual Report tabled. Thanks for work undertaken were given to the committee, our local councillors for the pond improvement grant, the pond working party, those who updated the telephone box, the Newsletter, and Newsbite editor, and the Neighbourhood Plan Team for their considerable achievement in preparing the plan. The present plan status of the latter was outlined by Peter Dye. The annual report was then adopted. Andy Hohne thanked his predecessor, Terry Pegrum, for his work as Treasurer and also John Bellis for acting as Account Examiner. The Society and SP CiC were in good shape financially. His report was adopted, during which it was noted that annual subscriptions were now due. Bill moved on to changes to the Society Constitution and policies, mainly to bring them into line with current legislation. Regarding the changes to planning policy, he outlined the effects of these, stating in answer to query that that only planning applications would not be covered. Views for and against were aired, culminating in a proposal that the deletions be accepted, which was carried by 21 votes for, 3 against and the remainder abstentions. All committee members except Bill Egerton who was retiring were willing to stand again. and were elected en bloc. Hilary Davidson volunteered for Chair, Andy Hohne for the joint offices of Treasurer and Secretary and John Bellis to continue as the Independent Financial Examiner. All were proposed and elected. The defibrillator location was debated, as was the possibility of obtaining Christmas decorations for the village. Finally John Crisp thanked Bill Egerton for his excellent work as Chair of the meeting, and for ten years of sterling service on Committee, many of them as Secretary. John said that in that time Bill had seen through many changes and dealt with difficult problems, had set up the village website and worked tirelessly behind the scenes, always with panache, humour and great competence. Much warm applause greeted his words. The minutes of the AGM are available on the Village web site,

The Neighbourhood Plan

The Dorset Council consultation process on the SP Neighbourhood Plan ended on Friday 12 July. All comments on the plan and/or how it was produced, should go to Dorset Council who will be passed them on to the independent examiner. The plan can be seen on line at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sutton-poyntz-neighbourhood-plan> and on the SP website at

<http://suttonpoyntz.org.uk/index.php/neighbourhood>

Hard copies are available at South Walks House in Dorchester and at the Council Offices at Weymouth Library and more locally, courtesy of Peter Dye, at the Mission Hall, St Andrews and - wait for it - in the TaRIC (our Tourist and Residents Information Centre) opposite the Cartshed. The Place Appraisal is also available in hard copy form at a cost of £4.50 - ask any Committee Member.

It's all happening in the Village

Art Show

The talented Friday Art Group held a very successful two day Exhibition in the Mission Hall. Over 200 people attended, including many out of the area visitors, and 19 paintings were sold plus many cards. There were lashings of tea, cake, conversation and voting. The 'My Favourite Painting' vote went to 'Daddy' painted by Janice Williams with 'Crashing Waves' by Pat Bellis in 2nd place.

Village walk



17 two legged walkers and two four legged ones took part in the Village Walk led by Richard and Judy Backwell. This took a circular route from the Kings Arms in Portesham, visiting the limestone quarry and a dinosaur(?) before ascending to Hardy's Monument - and down again, of course. Following their exertions, everyone partook of a well deserved meal at the pub, and, no doubt, took care of any dehydration problems!

Fundraising for Church Flower festival

The coffee morning at the Church Rooms was enjoyed by the considerable number who attended and £335 was raised towards providing flowers for the Flower Festival. When added to the proceeds of the lunch organised in the Mission Hall, this covers the cost of the flowers. So all the donations at the festival will be going to the Bus Shelter at Lodmoor for rough sleepers, Horses for Courses in Weymouth supporting those with mental health problems and the renovations at St Andrews Church. A full report in the next Newsletter.

Balfe the Baker bites a burger



The BBQ at the Mission Hall Garden was not blessed with the best of weather. Despite this there was a good turnout and everyone had a good time, with much praise heard for the quality of the burgers. These, as



you can see, were definitely not bite sized - not even Balfe sized! Another successful event for your committee organisers.

Fundraising evening for Okhle

Richard Backwell, Ruth, Judith and Clive, organised a well attended and most enjoyable Nepal Supper evening which raised over £925 for the Okhle Village Trust. Richard will be going out to Nepal in November to see for himself the progress on the latest project. Watch this space for news of what has been going on.

A night at the races

The sound of horses' hooves pounding across the turf filled the air at the recent Horse Racing Night in the Mission Hall. Nobody lost their shirt as special 'betting money' was provided. However the large audience of punters had a great deal of fun forecasting the likely winners of the recorded races, only pausing to enjoy a fish and chip supper in the headlong rush to go broke!, Thanks are due to the committee members who organised the evening, and to those who helped to tidy up afterwards. Over £130 was raised and everyone agreed that it was an event well worth repeating.

Weymouth East Scout & Guide Spring Jumble Sale

As reported, the Spring Jumble Sale raised £415 to help maintain the Scutt Hall for the benefit of our local youngsters. The Autumn Sale will be on Saturday 26 October, a date for your diary. However the purpose of mentioning it so far in advance is that Mo and Dave Martin, whose sterling efforts over the past years have raised so much money, will reluctantly be retiring after October. They will be a hard act to follow, but if you would like to help, or know someone who might, get in touch with Mo and Dave (836322) for details of what is involved.

Local Community First Responder



We owe a debt of gratitude to Simon Allison, who has retired as our voluntary Community First Responder after a number of years of dedicated service. His successor is Alan Hale, who recently attended a Summer Coffee morning to make himself known and demonstrate the use of the a defibrillator to those attending. Alan says that we should all be

aware that the Sutton Poyntz defibrillator, located behind the Springhead pub, is available for emergency use. We wish Alan well in his new role.

Some Forthcoming Events

Cream teas in the Mission Hall garden on Saturday 20 July between 2.30 and 5pm. The Scarecrows are out the same day, and remain on view for voting until Friday 2 August.

The Village Vegetable Show on Saturday 3 August between 09.30am and 12.30pm in the Mission Hall.

Pimms and Ploughmans on Saturday 31 August, at the Mission Hall.

The Scouts Autumn Jumble Sale in the Scutt Hall on Saturday 26 October.

A Murder Mystery Evening on Saturday 16 November in - guess where, yes, that's right - the Mission Hall

And last but not least, the summer and winter coffee mornings on the first Friday in every month, 10.30am to noon in the Mission Hall

Business matters

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

Newsbites are email news updates. Contact 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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Hilary Davidson 834479

Secretary & Treasurer Andy Hohne 07946 323681

Peter Riley 834653 Jez Cunningham 835811

Jackie Greet 833557 Jill Kelsey 835605

Marianna Dodd 07528 011722 Shirley Davies 520356

Linda Kirkpatrick 07785 534212 David Burge

Chris Balfe 07969 781145

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