



# Sutton Poyntz Society

*Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Dorset Branch)*

## "BRITAIN IN BLOOM"

Everyone will by now know the result of the local competition, but this first Newsletter since the result was announced must - mustn't it? - begin with the confirmation that Sutton Poyntz won the Clem Preece Memorial Award for "outstanding effort" in the small villages section of the West Country regional competition. The last Newsletter expressed thanks to the many people and bodies who worked so hard in the run-up to the judging - all that hard work has proved to be so worthwhile. The judge, Mrs Joyce Harding of Bath, and the Borough Engineer on behalf of the Borough Council have congratulated the village on the award. Immediately after the judging, Mrs Harding wrote saying that she and her husband who came with her would look back in the future and say "Do you remember that lovely village and the wonderful people of Sutton Poyntz?". How charming.

A few lessons have been learned for next year's entry, assuming all agree that we enter again. Presentation of this year's award will take place on 13 October (see below). Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Tambling on her continued success in the Borough competition.

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## WALKING THE PYRENEES

Again, we all know now that Richard Backwell successfully completed his lone walk across the mountains - heartiest congratulations. Wasn't it a delight to see his picture in the Echo taking a well-earned dip into the sea at Weymouth on his return? He has raised over £1,000 in sponsorship for the local Trimar Hospice - more congratulations! The SPS Committee decided that the Society should sponsor him for £25 (from the proceeds of the anniversary barn-dance in the Spring) and are so pleased to have paid him.

Richard promised to give the Society members a talk, with slides, on his epic journey. It will take place on WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER in the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane. Do make a note of the date and come along to hear and see all about it.

The B-in-B award will be presented that evening at 7.30 pm and Richard's talk will follow. Coffee and biscuits will be served.

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## FOOTPATHS

Members of the Committee and officers of the Borough Council have discussed with Farmer Bill Bond a number of aspects of the use of footpaths in the area, including the possible provision of more durable notices to replace those which Mr Bond helpfully put up a few weeks ago, giving not only the routes but also the names etc. of the farm meadows.

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## THE DUCKS

Not perhaps surprisingly, with the increase in the family of ducks in the village the duck-house by the Springhead is now too small. The

/Committee

Committee of the Society has agreed to pay for the wood for an extension to the house, and volunteers will make it.

Several months ago the Borough Engineer called our attention to a new national road-sign which was being produced to give warning of wild-life; at that time, we asked for such a sign to be provided in the village to protect our ducks. Recently the local paper had an item about a "duck sign" being installed at Upwey. On enquiry, the Engineer has told us that a sign is to be erected here as promised.

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#### THE LATE DON HARBOUR'S EXHIBITS

As previously mentioned, Mrs Harbour agreed to the rather dilapidated cabinet containing these exhibits being replaced. Jim Willis supplied the wood and John Harrison made the new cabinet, which is now in place in Mission Hall Lane. A happy coincidence was that the Harbour's grandson was around to help; and Doris kindly gave a donation towards the cost of glazing and incidentals. So, many thanks all round.

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#### SOCIAL EVENTS

The Committee has come to the conclusion that another event, after that in October, in the pre-Christmas period is probably uncalled for. Something will, however, be arranged for early in the New Year. And thought will be given to the possibility of another barn-dance in the Spring.

This may be an opportunity to mention that from time to time details of some of the events organised by Dorchester Museum (which the Society supports financially) are given in our Information Box at the Cartshed - talks, demonstrations, discussions etc.

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#### TRIG POINTS

In February, as reported in the March Newsletter, we informed the Ordnance Survey of our interest in their scheme for the adoption of OS Triangular markers. We asked if we might "adopt" the pillar on White Horse Hill and the OS said the application would be considered. Over the intervening months there has been some correspondence about this, concluding with the news that that particular pillar should not have been included in the scheme - it will be maintained by OS indefinitely. Oh well, you can't win 'em all!

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#### FOR THE WEARY ..

Thanks to Tony Eves for making and installing, with the consent of the highway authority, the nice little seat by the bus stop at the Cartshed.

And it is hoped that some form of seating may be provided on the knoll near the footpath between "Wyndings", Plaisters Lane, and the Springbottom.