



Sutton Poyntz Society

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

"BRITAIN IN BLOOM"

The village can be proud of itself once again - in fact, more so than in previous years. We have come joint second in the small villages section of the West Country competition and have been awarded the Gordon Ford Cup (no 2); the other joint second - East Budleigh - has won the Ford Cup no 1. We expect the trophy to be presented in the autumn.

So, well done everyone. The West Country B-in-B Committee has sent its congratulations.

The judge, Mr H. Rigden, a professional from Somerset College of Horticulture, was most impressed with what he saw. In his report he wrote:-

- . Sutton Poyntz is a delightful village which requires exploring on foot in order to appreciate its charm and the effort made by the Village Society, the B-in-B Committee, residents and tradespeople.
- . The visitor is presented with a neat and colourful spectacle, resulting almost totally from the efforts of individuals to ensure that their front gardens look attractive.
- . There are places within the village where tubs/troughs and baskets could add extra colour.
- . It is pleasing how areas that could be neglected - such as the "river" - are being kept tidied.
- . Residents should justifiably be proud of their efforts and their village. Well done!

Congratulations, too, to Margaret Tambling whose lovely garden in Sutton Road came first in the local competition for houses and gardens East of the River Wey. Very well done.

Finally, Weymouth has won the regional TSW Cup, coming first in its population group (which included Torquay and Paignton). Congratulations. The flowers along the Esplanade and elsewhere in the town really are so beautiful, aren't they?

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This year, in connection with B-in-B and on the initiative of Tony Bugler, our Chairman, the Society ran its own competition among children (particularly Brownies) in the area for painting or crayoning a village scene in summer. George Shires of Silver Street, a former chairman of the Society, kindly judged the eighteen entries, which were in three age groups up to 10. Winners in their respective groups were:- Kirsty Eveleigh, Elizabeth Newland and Holly Jesty.

Along with the SPS Committee, Mr Shires also generously contributed towards the prizes, so each child received one and a certificate at a recent meeting in the Scutt Hall. George has commented: "I enjoyed judging the work of these children immensely. The paintings were lively and wonderfully varied, each showing the painter's individual way of perceiving. I hope they all carry on and that art will enrich their lives as it has mine."

Isn't it great and such a credit to the village that so many people of all ages, along with a number of organisations, have joined in this annual event with such goodwill and enthusiasm? Long may it continue.

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DORSET CREAM TEAS

Then, this annual occasion. As you know, this year the residents of Old Bincombe Lane arranged the teas on 29 July. A record number of people, 138, attended and it was a highly successful afternoon. The SPS Committee was delighted when some months ago the residents said they'd like to be responsible for the teas, using their front lawns as the venue, and Committee members were very grateful when told later that the residents would run it all themselves.

The object of this event is to provide a gentle, civilised "get together", not necessarily to make money. But so very well the Old Bincombe Laners did that Society funds have benefited by some £190 and a donation is also being made to a local charity. All the gallant team are worthy of praise - ladies imprisoned in a kitchen, others coping with enormous teapots and cream and jam (and wasps), and a small but efficient band of stall holders and general helpers. And of course we do not forget the scone-maker's art.

Many people helped to make 29 July such an enjoyable occasion but we shall no doubt be forgiven for mentioning Jim Willis who masterminded it all. From everyone, very many thanks.

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SUMMER WALK

Finally, another pleasure. The walk on the evening of 15 June started and ended at the New Inn, West Knighton, where a delicious supper was enjoyed. Great credit is due to our inveterate walker, Richard Backwell, who planned it all excellently - lovely weather, splendid company and delightful countryside. See you all again next year, along with quite a few who were prevented from coming this year!

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Yes, we hear you say "Blowing the old trumpet a bit, aren't you?" Well, maybe - and why not?! Residents who have been here a long time have always said how charming the village is. For newer residents - practically all of whom have been welcomed into the Society - and for members generally, it is a good thing occasionally to relate our achievements with pleasure, isn't it?

Some time ago, a newcomer rightly asked about the things the Society had accomplished since it was founded in 1968. Amazingly, the list -probably incomplete- extended beyond a closely-typed page; one of these days it could be published. There is no doubt that Sutton Poyntz can be proud of itself; we must all ensure that it always will be.