



# Sutton Poyntz Society

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

## Britain In Bloom

January 25th was a bitterly cold night but still 22 members of the Society turned out to hear Nigel Hewish from Kingston Maurward talk about hanging baskets, tubs, containers, etc. - how to plant them, what materials to use and how to maintain them. All of this was most interesting as it was pertinent to this year's entry in the Britain in Bloom competition.

The SPS Committee later decided that up to £150 could be spent on plants, containers and the like for the "public" parts of the village. The Committee points out, as it has done previously, that the Society is in no way trying to dictate to villagers how their gardens should be planted. A plan of action has been decided on as regards a theme for the village. This will be a colour scheme of blue and white, mainly for the "public" containers, but anyone who wishes to join in will be able to get help and advice from the Society's Co-ordinator, Simon Emblen. This decision has been taken because it is colour co-ordination which, we know, has proved to make cup winners in the various classes. It is worth repeating, however, that there is no intention to ask you to conform to any colour scheme - the joy of Sutton Poyntz is its varying type of gardens, flowers, etc.

We hope everyone in the village will join in the competition because it is the overall appearance which counts most with the judges. In the past, judges have commented on the beauty of the village - one said the village has to be explored on foot to appreciate its charm and the efforts made to provide a colourful spectacle. Another commented that Sutton Poyntz could be proud of the enormous pleasure given to residents and visitors alike; the place is of such beautiful landscape and architecture that there is no need to overdo the more colourful bedding plants.

Among other items crucial in judging (which is expected to take place as usual in July) are:

- \* cleanliness and lack of litter;
- \* effort by owners of buildings other than dwellings;
- \* condition and effectiveness of hanging baskets and other displays;
- \* similarly, the condition and effectiveness of residents' displays;
- \* involvement of local organisations.

As in the past, we hope the Borough Council will co-operate by having verges tidied, streets cleaned etc. to coincide with judging. The Society will once again help anyone in the village who may be experiencing difficulty with their garden display, and will also keep an eye on things like the general tidiness of roads and the state of the pond.

So please keep up the good work! Sutton Poyntz has won a prize every year we have entered the B in B Competition, and last year we obtained a cup for coming second in our class. In 1995 there were twelve entries in our class (small villages); we shall not know until after March how many there will be this year. BUT LET'S GO ALL OUT FOR THAT FIRST POSITION.

The Committee

P.T.O.

PLEASE NOTE -

The talk which Mr Hugh Jaques was to have given on Thursday 22 February in the Sutton Room has been POSTPONED. We shall hope to re-arrange it for the Autumn.

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The Village Street Fayre Committee announces a Village Meeting on Tuesday 13 February at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room, Mission Hall Lane, to discuss plans and ideas for the Victorian Street Fayre on 30 June - proceeds from the fayre will go to Water Aid, Breakthrough and the Joseph Weld Hospice.

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THE VILLAGE PILLAR BOX - You will know that the pillar box at the Cartshed was vandalised just before Christmas; someone smashed the front with a sledgehammer, presumably hoping to find money or postal orders. It is a Victorian box which the Society - and indeed the Post Office - is extremely keen to preserve. We are all grateful to Tony Eves of the Cartshed for welding the bits together, a job requiring great care and a lot of time. So, thank you very much, Tony. The box was re-opened for business on 27 January and will shortly be painted in its bright livery by the Post Office.

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DON'T FORGET ..... The Society's BARN DANCE is on Saturday 30 March in the Preston Village Hall, with the great band 'Jump at the Sun' providing the music. More details and tickets will be available later in February. But make a note of the date now, if you haven't already done so!