



## Sutton Poyntz Society

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY - FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER, 8 pm, SUTTON ROOM.

As usual, seasonal refreshments will be served, including mulled wine. In addition, this year we will be entertained by Chris Galpin's Panto Troupe. There will be a small charge of £2 to cover expenses. Do come along and join in what will be a most enjoyable start to the Christmas festivities.

### SOUTH WEST DORSET TALKING NEWSPAPER

The Society is pleased to include in this Newsletter this item in support of the work of the hard working volunteers who every week produce and circulate over 400 tapes (each of 90 minutes duration) to blind and partially-sighted people in the area. The tapes contain a digest of local news and other information, and are recorded in the Group's Portland studio. You will of course appreciate that the volunteers put in a great deal of effort and skill in producing the tapes, and they need to have a reliable network of helpers to distribute them and later collect them for recycling.

To continue its work, the Group has to raise over £1,000 annually; it is always keen to welcome new volunteers. If you are able to help in any way in production, distribution or fund-raising, please contact Cathrin Dunford on 776151. You may also know of someone who would benefit from the service - if so, please give Arthur Stubbs (772729) their name and address and he will send them a tape.

### SUTTON ROOM

You will recall that earlier this year at a general meeting attended by everyone with an on-going interest in the Sutton Room, a working party was appointed to look into the possibility of taking over this room from St Andrew's Church and converting it into a village hall. The working party has held a number of meetings with P.C.C. representatives and has received guidance from the Dorset Community Action Group. It is expected that firm proposals and a business plan will be agreed in the near future so that applications can then be made for grant-aid to the various organisations concerned - such as the Lottery Fund and Dorset County Council.

### TELEPHONE KIOSK

The Society has complained to British Telecom about the state of the telephone kiosk opposite the Cartshed; as a result the kiosk has been cleaned and a broken window replaced. The condition of the exterior remains poor but B.T. has promised that the kiosk is on their schedule for repainting in the spring or early summer of next year.

### LOCAL FOOTPATHS

A number of complaints received from members about the state of some of the footpaths through fields surrounding the village have been passed on to the appropriate authorities, who are making attempts to overcome the problems.

It is, however, clear that those responsible for farming the land do not rate the

maintenance of rights of way high on their lists of priorities. We have been advised to keep walking the paths, in spite of difficulties caused by ploughing and other obstructions, to ensure that the paths do not fall into dis-use. In support, efforts will be made by local officers to obtain the co-operation of the farmer(s) to ensure that rights of way are properly demarcated.

#### PLANNING

In the last Newsletter it was reported that the application to build a large agricultural building off Puddledock Lane had been turned down by the Planning Committee of the Borough Council. In October, the landowner, Mr Seal, appealed against the decision; the final report of the Government Inspector who heard the appeal is still awaited.

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