



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY - Newsletter No 132 – January 2009

Winter is here

It seems a long while since the last Newsletter – last year, before Christmas – I guess it was published a little earlier than usual. Anyway, a Happy New Year to you all.

Forthcoming events

Pottery classes..... Jan 2009

Coffee Mornings 6th Feb / 6th Mar

Society AGM..... 15th April

Pottery Classes – Pottery classes have started in the Mission Hall this month. See the notice on the hall for details.

Coffee Morning – There are only two more regular “Monthly Coffee Mornings” planned for this season on **6th February** and **6th March**. Call in any time from **10.30 to 12.00** for coffee, cake and chat and see what other projects are going on in the village.

Coffee mornings may return in the autumn.

Society AGM – The Society AGM is planned for **Wed 15th April** at 7.30 in the Mission Hall – so make a note in your diary. Several committee members will not be available to represent you next year – so some new volunteers will be needed to maintain your interests in our village. Your committee (which meets monthly) would also benefit from the views of new members.

Please advise any committee member of any resolutions you would like to have discussed at the AGM.

Report of events

Halloween Sausage Sizzle – The Mission Hall Trust organised a Halloween Sausage Sizzle on **31st October**. The event was as successful as last year and enjoyed by all who attended. I have heard it deemed as excellent as it attracted younger families and children including 16 entries in the pumpkin carving competition. Hopefully, it will all be repeated again next year at pumpkin time!

Watercolour Splash – The Sutton Poyntz painting group, led by artist Roy Winstanley held a day’s painting course in the Mission Hall in November. The day was a great success with much experimentation of watercolour techniques resulting in some very successful pieces, and was enhanced by a splendid lunch provided by Roy’s wife Jean. The group was delighted to raise the sum of £200 as a donation to Water Aid

Coffee Mornings – The regular monthly coffee mornings continued on the first Friday of each month. They have grown in popularity each month with the Jan morning hosting some 50 villagers who also enjoyed the display by the “**Heritage and History**” group who are documenting the growth of the village. Many maps and old pictures were displayed. Following the display in October of the “**Wildlife and Environment**” material that had been collected, the November coffee morning benefited from an exhibition of paintings from Sara Knight. December had a display of materials targeted at producing a village map (see “**Footpaths**” in Village Plan below).

Christmas Carols – Our 2008 carol singing reverted back to the familiar pattern of earlier years – with a good crowd carolling around the Christmas tree led by Tim West. Once again we were blessed with a cool dry evening warmed up by boisterous singing followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Mission Hall. The carols were followed by several christenings conducted by Tim in the river Jordan.

Village Plan

John Crisp, on behalf of the Society Committee is co-ordinating progress with each group. If you are interested in contributing to one (or more) of these groups, please contact John Crisp or the contacts noted. Some of the materials being developed by these groups have been displayed at the monthly coffee mornings.

- **Communication** – Newsletters continue to be delivered to Members and posted on the Notice Board. It is also intended to extend our existing Internet web site. Current address (URL) is sutton-poyntz.co.uk
- **Heritage and History** – Bill Egerton leads the group that has started documenting the history of dwellings, and changes in the village. As a first task, they are collecting evidence on the way that the village has grown over the years, and particularly the dates of its buildings. They hope to present maps showing the evolution of the village on the village Web Site. They have a number of data sources, but for these purposes, the most important source of information is YOU. They are keen to hear from you with answers to the following:

Your address

Date of your house?

What evidence do you have for this date (deeds etc.)?

Was there a previous building on the same site?

If you are willing to help, please send the information to Bill, at Northdown Farmhouse (Tel 832872) or by email to bill.egerton@tiscali.co.uk

Get in touch with Bill if you would like to join the group.

- **Crime prevention** – (P Jones) The Community Van visited the area in October. Several notices from Ringmaster have been distributed as they were received by Homewatch co-ordinators.
- **Conservation** – Your Committee continue to examine all local planning applications. Note that all interested parties also need to comment.
 - Your committee has commented on the draft AONB management plan issued in November.
 - A document, outlining the principles followed by your committee in their approach to Planning in Sutton Poyntz, is posted on the notice board for information.
- **Footpaths** – A Village Map Project was 'launched' on 5 December using the regular Friday Coffee Morning event to provide a display of maps and other material outlining the aims of this work. Exhibits were provided by Tony Heatherhsaw, Sarah Harbige (Dorset AONB Team) and Claire Pinder (Dorset County Council Archaeologists Office). The aim of the project is to produce an illustrated Village Map providing information on: access to the countryside via footpaths and other rights of way; buildings and features of historical and archaeological interest and, environmental aspects (flora and fauna, nature trails etc). The plan is to locate the new Village Map in the vicinity of the Pond, for the benefit of visitors and residents alike. The Village Map is being developed under the auspices of the Society and in conjunction with the South Dorset Ridgeway AONB Team. Work on the Map is being undertaken by Tony Heathershaw, Mike Nixon and Peter and Louise Sheaves. The Map Project will incorporate information arising from the History & Heritage Group and the Wildlife and Environment Group
- **Tourist leaflet** – A leaflet highlighting the features to be found around the village is planned. It is considered that this could be a saleable item.
- Following correspondence with W&PBC, the condition of Footpath 18 (between Weymouth Bay and Waterside caravan sites) has been improved.

Wildlife and Environment – Following its cautious start in the late summer, the group (now called the Biodiversity group) has produced its first *Bird Report*. This comprehensive report, not only provides a list of birds seen in the village over the past five years, also has identified the broad habitat where the birds are expected to be found. The report also shows how with training, our members are not only bird watchers but bird recorders as well, providing very useful information, which will be used by Dorset Environmental Records Centre. The report highlights the importance of Gorse scrub as a shelter belt on the hill and reviews management options as Natural England wish to expand the area of chalk grassland in the area. The report is available as a pdf file from John Newbould.

The group now wish to recruit more people who, in particular, will provide a monthly list of birds and other wildlife seen in their garden. Full training will be given explaining what is needed. An initial training day will be held at 9.30am on Monday January 19th. For further information contact David Emery on 832907 or John Newbould on 837384.

Traffic – We have been in correspondence with First Bus re the revised bus schedule. Whilst no further changes are imminent, there could be further reviews for the summer season.

Other matters discussed by your committee

- **Appearance of the village** – Discussion has been had with W&PBC re clearing the verge by the bus stop near the Cart Shed, clearing ditches to minimise flooding and reinstating white line markings at the end of Puddledock.
- **Planning Matters**
 - **Planning Appeals** - Waterside Caravan Park expansion (to which the Society objected) – replacing touring vans with static caravans which was rejected by W&PBC - appeal was rejected.
 - Pair of dwellings replacing the Cart Shed, which was rejected by W&PBC - appeal was rejected.
 - **Commented** – Myrtle cottage conservatory.
- **SHLAA** – Following the document “Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment”, published by W&PBC, an update report is in progress. This process is to identify land for potential future building sites to meet the Government requirements for new houses over the next 15 years.

Neighbours

There have been several comments on the problems with deer. They are not managed – but they do eat their way through the gardens. Apart from a 2 metre high fence there appears little we can do. Perhaps a road sign would warn motorists, (deer cannot read) or what? They are attractive animals – in the fields or someone else's garden. A list of deer resistant plants, supplied by Margaret Brown, is posted on the notice board.

A message from Gill and Dave Caddy

We just wanted to say a big thank you to so many of our friends and neighbours in the village who helped us during a “sticky patch” in the 3 weeks up to Christmas. It was lovely to have so many good wishes, cards, “meals on wheels” and help in various ways. Sorry nobody got Christmas cards from us but we're sure you will forgive us this one time – will do better next year!

Gill is doing ok now and getting around pretty well, but of course in about 3 months time the other knee has to dealt with.

Thank you all again and a Happy New Year to you.

Best Wishes - Gill and Dave Caddy

Your Committee Your committee are available for any items of interest or concern

Tony Bugler (832953)

Michael Haine (832995)

Karen Phillips (836330)

Graham Embley (833268)

Joyce Litschi (833303)

Peter Riley (834653)

John Crisp (Chairman) (832529)

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