



# Sutton Poyntz Society

*Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England*

## SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY - Newsletter No 133 – March 2009

### Spring is on the way

Since the last Newsletter in January we have had freezing cold days, snow and recently the sea has been like a millpond and the sun has shone warmly. Sounds like a whole year in the space of two months. However the many daffodils springing to life around the village show a New Year is here.

As part of our New Year, both the Society and the Mission Hall Trust are holding AGMs in April. Come and support your representatives and afterwards join in a fun quiz with a bubbly prize for the winners.

### Forthcoming events

<b>Society AGM.....</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Mission Hall AGM.....</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Village clean up .....</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Society Walks.....</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Cream Teas .....</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>Scarecrow Comp'n..</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Jul – 1<sup>st</sup> Aug</b>
<b>Vegetable show .....</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Aug</b>

**Mission Hall AGM** – To use your time most effectively, we have agreed to use the date of **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April** to hold both the Society and the Mission Hall AGMs. The Mission Hall AGM will be held first and start at **7.00pm** and will include reports from the officers and election of the committee for coming year. It is anticipated that it will be complete within 30 minutes allowing the Society AGM to start promptly at 7.45.

**Society AGM** – The Society AGM will be held at **7.45 on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> April** (not 7.30 as previously advised) in the Mission Hall.

The agenda will consist of:-

- Reports for the year - followed by
- A resolution proposed by the committee - "To reduce the maximum continuous term for the Chairman from 5 to 3 years".
- After AOB and a short Tea/coffee break, we hope you will enjoy a "Champagne Quiz" with teams of up to 4 people having a chance to win a bottle – entry fee will be £2 per team. If you wish to enjoy a glass of wine, BYOB, glasses are available.

If you have any matter to be discussed at the meeting, please ensure that the Secretary has notice at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. If it is not contentious it may also be raised under AOB.

Several nominations for new committee members have been received – additional members may be nominated from the floor.

**Village tidy up** – You are invited to join us in a Village Tidy Up around the local roadsides from 10.00 to 12.00 on 24<sup>th</sup> April. We would appreciate your help – meet at the pond.

**Walks** – It is anticipated that Richard Backwell and Mike Haine will arrange a further couple of village walks this year. Dates and routes have not been finalised yet, so keep an eye open for posted notices and the May Newsletter.

**Cream Teas** – Our cream teas this year are planned for 25<sup>th</sup> July in the Mission Hall Orchard. Reserve that day, it is one of the best attended events of the year. If it rains we will move into the hall.

**Scarecrow Competition** – This years competition will run from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July to the 1<sup>st</sup> August with the winner announced at the vegetable show. I noticed, that during last years scarecrow competition we had no new visits from our local deer population, so perhaps we also have a solution to dissuade deer grazing in gardens (although only for 2 weeks).

**Vegetable Show** – This years show will be on 1<sup>st</sup> August with any profits donated to Waves. Classes will be similar to last year and will detailed in the May Newsletter.

### Report of events

**Pottery Classes** – We are advised by one of the students, that these classes are going very well and are most enjoyable. An exhibition of pottery from David (the pottery class tutor) was displayed at the last Coffee morning of the season held this month (March).

**Coffee Mornings** – The final monthly coffee morning of this session was enjoyed by more than 50 visitors on the 7<sup>th</sup> March together with an exhibition of pottery from David, (who has just started the pottery classes at the hall). Our thanks go to Caroline and her helpers for a tasty break on the first Friday of each winter month over the last six months, and to your Chairman for organising the interesting concurrent displays.

Displays during the coffee mornings were:-

- October - **"Wildlife and Environment"** material.
- November - exhibition of paintings from Sara Knight.
- December - materials towards producing a village map.
- January - material recording our **"Heritage and History"**.
- February - display of Weymouth plans for the Esplanade.

• **March - Pottery.**

It is hoped to start the next series of coffee mornings in October.

## **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. Come to the AGM for more details.

**Heritage and History** – Bill Egerton leads the group that has started documenting the history of dwellings, and changes in the village.

• **Crime prevention** – Peter Jones reports - Coverage of the village for Homewatch is now complete. It is hoped that all members are pleased with the information feed obtained from Ringmaster via their co-ordinators. If not then please contact Peter Jones on 01305 833288. There are still opportunities to participate as deputy co-ordinators in the village; if you would like to take part please contact Peter. No doubt petty crime and the threat from theft will increase in these straightened times and it is appropriate that Homewatch is in place to provide additional support from neighbours and a general awareness to counter the opportunists. Several notices from Ringmaster have been distributed as they were received by Homewatch co-ordinators.

P Jones has organised a meeting with our PSCO on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Any important matters raised will be reported in the next Newsletter.

• **Conservation** – Your Committee continue to examine all local planning applications. Note that all other interested parties also need to comment.

- 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.

• **The Village Map** project continues. Work on the Map (Interpretation Panel) is being undertaken by Tony Heathershaw, Mike Nixon and Peter and Louise Sheaves.

• **Tourist leaflet** – A leaflet highlighting the features to be found in a walk around the village is also progressing with drafts produced and estimates being prepared. It is hoped that this could be a saleable item.

• **Biodiversity Group News from John Newbould** – We now have nine homes supporting a monthly garden bird watch, which is done on the last full week in the calendar month. We would welcome additional help, especially south of Puddledock Lane. Many people report seeing the Lapwing and Golden Plover in the grasslands during the freezing weather in early January and we thank you for the reports. With spring coming, we are busy monitoring Skylark numbers on the Ridgeway with walks to Pixon Barn and Bincombe. There is a wildlife walk most Monday's starting from Fox Cottage at 9.30am.

By the last week in February, I have been having reports of the occasional butterfly with Brimstone in a

greenhouse on old Bincombe Lane. In April, we will be starting botanical surveying in the Waterworks Wood. This is Weymouth's smallest area of ancient woodland with numerous old coppice stools of maple and ash. For more information John Newbould on 837384 or David Emery on 832907.

## **Sutton Poyntz Village WI**

Val Stevens reports - The varied programme of talks since Christmas: Chiropractice, Dorset Pub Signs and Tristan da Cunha, together with our Birthday Pub Lunch, has given us plenty to talk about in very congenial company.

Fifty members and friends enjoyed a 'Musical Soirée' in the Mission Hall on 11th March and, in doing so, raised approximately £400 for the project fund of Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Entertained by a flute trio led by Sandy Easton and a group of close harmony singers from Upwey and sustained by a wonderful spread of far more than wine and cheese, the evening provided an opportunity to join with WI members from Wyke Regis, Overcombe, and Preston-cum-Sutton Poyntz institutes.

We are looking forward to our Garden Meeting in August which will give us the opportunity to dress up again when we wear our Garden Party hats. We have welcomed several new members this year. The WI is far more than 'Jam and Jerusalem'. Why not come and join us

## **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 – actions are not yet evident.

- Note the Tidy up being arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> April.

• **Planning Matters**

- **Commented** – Myrtle cottage conservatory.

- Beech tree thinning at Rose cottage

- Ash tree thinning at Sutton House

- Porch at Brookmead

• **Delivery of Newsletter** – last month we delivered a couple of Newsletters via e-mail. If you would prefer to receive yours via e-mail advise the Secretary.

## **Neighbours**

Don and Brenda Pennington have moved into a permanent home in the village in Plaisters Lane after sampling the pleasures of Sutton Poyntz.

We will shortly be welcoming back to the village, John and Debbie Elsmore and Megan from their extended stay in Tristan da Cunha.

**Deer** WHICH have produced a fact sheet on the deer problem in gardens – "No plants are completely deer proof and most plants are vulnerable when young. In general most animals are discouraged by very aromatic plants, prickles and spines and tough, leathery leaves."

**DVD** a DVD of the village is available for loan from the Mission Hall book loan area.

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

Tony Bugler (832953)

Graham Embley (833268)

John Crisp (Chairman) (832529)

Michael Haine (832995)

Joyce Litschi (833303)

John Bellis (Treasurer) (837162)

Karen Phillips (836330)

Peter Riley (834653)

John Sutherland (Secretary) (832227)