



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY - Newsletter No 134 – May 2009

Summer is just around the corner

The lambs are gambolling in the local fields. Walkers and dog walkers need to be especially careful not to disturb them.

Whilst we are blessed with many beautiful walks, it is also perhaps worth reminding all walkers that not every pathway is a right of way. Two specific paths, which are not rights of way, are via the field alongside Northdown Farm and running behind the barn (currently grazed with lambs) and the pathway from the kissing gate north of Mr Hunts timber works across to the pumping station (ie from Great Cuckoo Park to Home Close). A locked gate normally means no right of way – (but an unlocked gate does not always mean a right of way).

Forthcoming events

Day Walk	1 st June
Evening Walk	17 th June
AONB Walk	15 th July
Cream Teas	25 th July
Scarecrow Comp'n..	18 th Jul – 1 st Aug
Vegetable show	1 st Aug
Village BBQ	1 st Aug

Walks – Keep an eye on the notices for any changes.

1. Our first walk this year is the **Day Walk** on **Mon 1st June**. It will be circular one starting at the parking area 200 metres below Hardy's monument on the Martinstown side (GR 616877). Take refreshments for coffee and lunch stops. The walk is about 6.5 miles and will start at 10.00 am. Walkers who wish to prolong their enjoyment, could continue afterwards with Cream Teas.
2. The **Evening Walk** will take place on **Wed 17th June**. The walk will be about 4 miles starting at The Saxon Arms, Stratton (GR 649938) at 6.30 pm. After walk refreshments will be available at the Saxon Arms with orders taken before the start of the walk.
3. As part of a series of walks within the South Dorset Ridgeway AONB a walk in and around Sutton Poyntz is being planned starting at 2 p.m. on **15th July**. Details will be published on www.dorsetaonb.org.uk.

Cream Teas – We know that summer is on the way when we start to talk of the Society Cream Teas. This year we look forward to a good sunny day to enjoy cream teas in the Mission Hall orchard on **Saturday 25th July**. Reserve that day, it is often one of the best-attended events of the year. If we should get a wet day we will adjourn into the hall. Look out

for notices for more details – including cost and the time details.

Scarecrow competition – This competition runs for the two weeks before the Vegetable show – from **Saturday 18th July to Saturday 1st 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). All entrants need to place their scarecrow visible from the road and advise John Crisp of their entry. As last year, the winner will be voted by the public using forms that will list the entries. Look out for notices of further details.

Vegetable Show – This years show will be on **Saturday 1st August** with any profits donated to Waves. Classes will be similar to last year

Longest runner bean	Longest cucumber
Heaviest marrow	Selection of herbs
3 carrots	3 tomatoes
Single lettuce	3 Courgettes

3 beans (of any type)

5 Soft fruit (the same or mixed)

Anything grown in a greenhouse

A bunch of flowers (from your garden)

A bunch of different leaves

Plants growing in unusual container (children only entry)

Spud in a tub (up to 15ins diameter x 15ins high)



Report of events

Mission Hall AGM – The Mission Hall AGM voted the previous years officers to continue to manage the hall for the coming year.

Society AGM – At the Society AGM the members re-elected John Crisp as Chairman, John Bellis as Treasurer and John Sutherland as Secretary. The New committee (listed below) includes two new members – Maureen Maidment and Louise Sheaves. Mike Haine has withdrawn from the committee due to continuous conflict with his cubs commitments; our thanks to him for all his work on our behalf. A resolution "To reduce the maximum continuous term for the Chairman from 5 to 3 years" was passed and the constitution amended. Following the formal business a general quiz was run with some 25 members competing for a bottle of bubbly.

Village tidy up – Our village Tidy Up was completed on Friday 24th April. We picked Friday to suit some of the team and also to ensure that any rubbish picked up was collected that day by W&PBC. It was good news to report that most of the team had

very little litter to pick up – most people keep the area around their house clean. The exception was an area off Sutton Road where a local Dorset Advertiser deliverer found it easier to dump their load in the woods rather than push the papers through letterboxes.

Having picked up more than 20 bags of these papers – The Dorset



Advertiser assure us that it should not happen again. Thanks to all those who helped and in particular those who got into the woods and brambles to clear the papers.

Village Plan

John Crisp, on behalf of the Society Committee is co-ordinating progress with each group. If you are interested in contributing to any of these groups, please contact John Crisp or the contacts noted.

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 - The first newsletter from the Association of Dorset watches "Dorset Keepsafe" was recently distributed through Homewatch. This contains some useful pointers on the perception of crime in the County. It highlights the need to be vigilant about personal security including the use of ATMs, Internet Fraud, security of personal possessions and property. A worrying aspect at present is that of continuing instances of antisocial behaviour around the waterworks copse. This has been flagged up to the Police as a matter of ongoing concern not only for residents but also for Wessex Water.

In Dorset Keepsafe the Chief Constable states "Neighbourhood Watch /Homewatch is a fantastic army of volunteers and a force for good across Dorset". I would like to add my thanks for the efforts of all the village co-ordinators in their support towards ensuring our Homewatch is effective.

• **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. It is intended to locate the new interpretation panel on the site of the existing history and archaeology sign alongside the pond - hopefully being able to preserve the latter for display elsewhere.

Cost of work on the panel is being supported by the Sutton Poyntz Society and The Thomas Hardy Society. The bulk of the funding is from the S Dorset Ridgeway Project (basically Heritage Lottery Fund).

• **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 copies will be available by the summer – keep an eye on the Notice boards.

• **Biodiversity Group News** John Newbould / David Emery report - Most residents will have seen the work undertaken by tenants and land- owners to reduce the gorse on the downs north of the village. This caused the group some concerns due to the numbers of Linnet, Yellowhammer and Dartford Warbler present. Representations were made to the relevant Natural England Conservation officer. The garden bird watch is continuing on a monthly basis coupled with intensive breeding bird surveys of the Wessex Water land. A detailed survey of the Waterworks Wood has been undertaken including mapping around 25 veteran trees.

The group is in regular contact with Wessex Water, Dorset Wildlife Trust and Natural England to discuss the management of the SSSI areas in the village.

They are hoping to start moth trapping evenings soon as well as childrens stream dipping. They have purchased a bat detector and plan to start to use it to identify how many different species there in the village. Any one who has an interest in wildlife and would like to get involved in projects or just learn more contact John Newbould on 837384 or Dave on 832907 or join him on the Monday walk starting from Fox Cottage at 9.30am.

Sutton Poyntz Village WI

Val Stevens reports – We have a full programme of talks and activities for our new year beginning in June. Talks range over a wide variety of topics, from Nutrition and Vitamins to Dorset Curiosities; from Aid Projects in Kenya to the History of Magic, and more.

Our outing to Winchester and Whitchurch Silk Mill will take place in June and we have a full quota of coffee mornings. The Skittles Team is looking forward to a successful season and the Quiz Team hopes to better its 3rd place in the County Final. We are planning a Craft Exhibition for April 2010 so artists, crafters, knitters and sewers will soon be in action.

There's plenty to do – why not join us?

Matters discussed by your committee

• **Appearance of the village** – Village tidy completed 24th April

• **Planning Matters**

- **Objected** – Another house behind Fuschia cottage

- **Commented** – Trees at Clyffe cottage and Springside – restated view of Society but deferred decision to Trees officer.

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

Neighbours

Carers Seminar- Notice of a free 'Carers Aware Seminar' on 18th June 2009 at the Dorford Centre in Dorchester has been distributed through the Homewatch network.

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

John Crisp (Chairman) (832529)

Tony Bugler (832953)

Graham Embley (833268)

John Bellis (Treasurer) (837162)

Joyce Litschi (833303)

Maureen Maidment (834470)

John Sutherland (Secretary) (832227)

Karen Phillips (836330)

Peter Riley (834653)

Louise Sheaves (833338)