



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

SUTTON POYNTZ SOCIETY - Newsletter No 138 – March 2010

Forthcoming events

Arts and Crafts Exhibition 10th April
Society and MHT AGMs 21st April
Victorian Street Fayre..... 4th July

Arts and Crafts Exhibition

The Sutton Poyntz Village WI is arranging an Arts, Crafts and Craft Heirlooms Exhibition from 11.00 to 4.00 on 10th April. Entry (which includes coffee and biscuit) will be £1.

Society AGM and MHT AGM

Yes, it's that time again. On **21st April** at the Mission Hall, your committee will be reporting their progress over the last year and seeking some new committee members to continue to represent the views of the village as we move into the 2010s. Do come and give your support.

The Mission Hall AGM will start at 7.00 and the Society AGM will commence at 7.45. Following the formal business of the Society you will have the opportunity, over a glass of wine, to examine some of the material from the history group, which you did not see at the Village History Event.

The Village Victorian Street Fayre

Preparations are continuing for our next Street Fayre on **Sunday 4th July 2010**.



Village stalls The Village Stalls will be situated around the pond and all money raised on these stalls goes to charity. We would be grateful for any items in good condition for the following stalls. Many thanks in advance.

Perfect presents – Any unused items that you would be delighted to receive or give – deliver to Pat Haine 832995

Accessories – Jewellery, scarves, bags to Ruth Davies

Gardening – Plants, tubs, tools, seeds, cuttings - Paul Nicholson 835681

Books – Books, DVDs, puzzles, games to Sue Locke 835116

Antiques / Bygones – Everyone enjoys browsing at this popular stall – Contributions to Vera Flower 833031

Christmas items – (not electrical) to Mo Martin 836322

Shabby Chic Furniture – Small carry away wooden items suitable for repainting – chairs, tables, bookcases, cupboards etc. Painting days organised at the Mission Hall 28th April & 26th

May at 9.30 a.m. – contact Judy 833349. Items appreciated ASAP.

Vintage & Classical Clothes – Debbie D'Arcy 832153

Childrens – Another new stall - Toys, games, books + baby and toddlers clothes – please contact Suzanne Stracey 835353

American Stall - Another new stall for 4th July. Can anyone make some Muffins, cupcakes or Brownies that we would be delighted to sell on the stall? Also looking for a pop corn maker to borrow!

Fill a jar – Fill a jar with sweets (not chocolates) for the Brownies to sell - Maureen Bond 834012

Any queries – please contact Judy Backwell 833349.

Bunting Julia Allen is producing some new bunting for the street Fayre. She would welcome donations of any colourful cotton fabric to cut up – and any cottons. Please contact Julia on 832759. The loan of pinking shears would also be appreciated for the planned cutting days.

Fayre Helpers - 4th July Your support will be essential to ensure that we have another successful day, hugely enjoyed and participated in by so many in the village. John Sutherland (832227) is arranging the rota (together with the stall organisers). We had more than 150 helpers for the last Fayre – so do give us a ring.

All Fayre helpers will be welcome to an evening supper in the Marquee – space permitting.

Report of events

Coffee mornings The well attended March coffee morning included an exhibition of creative textiles produced by Brenda Pennington. The final Coffee Morning of this session will be held on 2nd April – yes on Good Friday. All who have attended will agree that these mornings have been a very enjoyable interlude throughout the winter months and we hope to continue them next winter. Thanks to all who have helped and participated in any way.

Village History

A presentation from the Village History and Heritage group was given to a large audience on 24th Feb. Bill Egerton outlined his research into the families who had owned the village from the earliest records he could find to 1925 when the village was sold to "today's" owners. Apart from an early difference in the original Pons family ownership, he uncovered an amazing coincidence where his own family ownership in Yorkshire crossed with a family owning the village. Peter Sheaves spoke of his work in investigating the

history of developments in the village mainly from 1925 and used his house as an example. Finally, Sarah Harbige talked on the work of the South Dorset Ridgeway Project and the AONB. The large attendance did not allow sufficient time or space to examine the many exhibits around the hall – another opportunity will be available at the AGM.

Village Plan - Groups reports

- **Crime prevention** – Peter Jones attended the Home Office sponsored South West Region Neighbourhood and Homewatch conference at Taunton last month. Some interesting slants were shown on how various communities in the South West apply the principals of Homewatch. Conference groups discussed the development in communication modes to impart information, creation of no cold-calling areas and the impact of Age Concern's project "Action against burglary". In common with many conferences there was also a lot of one way transmission of concepts by hired consultants but there is some glimmer of hope that Government will accept the final report collated by the consultants and provide more continuing support for local Homewatch. The following snippet of information was passed to me by PC Kevin Eames of Weymouth Police and illustrates the level of scams being inflicted upon the British public and our need to be aware:

"I recently learned that the Serious and Organised Crime Agency claim, together with partners, to have intercepted 7 tons of scam letters at UK ports, predominantly Dover. These originated from abroad and were intended for residents in the UK; this indicates the level of organised crime targeted at this country."

- **Conservation** – Your Committee continue to examine and comment on all local planning applications.

- **Tourist leaflet** – A leaflet (25p) highlighting the features be found in a walk around the village is now available from Sara Knight or at the coffee mornings.

Web site We are planning to produce a new village website, to act as an additional means of communication for people in the village and for visitors to Sutton Poyntz. A team is currently working on the design and contents of the new site. We would like to assemble a library of attractive photographs to show the village off and to make the web site bright and interesting. If you have photographs (particularly digital ones) of the village and its surrounds, that you would be willing to have used in this way, please contact Bill Egerton on 832872 or e-mail at bill.egerton@tiscali.co.uk

- **Biodiversity Group** John Newbould reports Following the excitement of early January, when the fields and gardens around Sutton Poyntz supported hundreds of Skylark, Fieldfare, Redwing and Song Thrush, February and early March have been fairly quiet. This has given David Emery and I time to write a progress report and research the background to our findings. This report is presently 56 pages. The

monthly garden bird watch scheme is growing with new members joining and birds such as Bullfinch being reported more frequently than in 2009. The cold weather seems to have taken its toll with very few reports of Dartford Warbler present in the autumn of 2008 on East Hill. Primrose is barely in flower as I write when there have been some years when flowers were present just after Christmas. Our *Biodiversity Report* will be available shortly. If you are interested in a copy, contact John Newbould on 837384, but there will be a charge.

Regular Events:

- Walks most Mondays at 9.30am from Fox Cottage.
- Moth Trapping at the Waterworks. Friday evenings at dusk from April.

Sutton Poyntz Village WI

The March meeting saw a return of Rob Curtis to talk about some Dorset Curiosities – he previously spoke on Dorset Inn Signs. Some questions answered in his talk were:-

- Which church has a Leper Squint?
- Where are there graves where men are buried half into and half out of the church walls?
- Where was there a huge Jacobean hour glass that timed sermons - until it was stolen?
- Where is the oldest church door still in use in England?
- Where is the Russian, Georgy Markoff (who was assassinated with a poisoned umbrella in London in 1978) buried?

There are no prizes for the correct answers. Rob Curtis picked a tablespoon warmer brought by Pat Bugler as the local curiosity from the WI members. Advance notice was given to warm up the vocal chords for a Victorian Music Hall in October.

Theatre Group

At a meeting held in the Mission Hall on 13th February and attended by over 30 people it was decided to form a new local theatregoers group, the Sutton Poyntz Theatre Group. As a result a full coach of villagers from Sutton Poyntz and Preston will travel to the Theatre Royal, Bath on 24th April for a matinee performance of Lord Arthur Savile's Crime by Oscar Wilde.

The group are to arrange quarterly theatre trips for 2010 and anyone interested in joining should contact Colin Marsh on 01305 833892 for further details.

Matters discussed by your committee

• Planning Matters

- **Commented** – Remove leylandii at Greenhills and Walnut tree pruning at the Gospel Hall– restated view of Society but deferred decision to Trees officer.

- **Objected** –Additional house between the Mission Hall and Fuchsia Cottage. Your Committee thought it obscured an important open gap and neither enhanced nor reinforced the Conservation Area. Application passed at planning meeting 3rd Feb.

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 Tepper (834470)

John Sutherland (Secretary) (832227)

Karen Phillips (836330)

Peter Riley (834653)

Louise Sheaves (833338)