



# Sutton Poyntz Society

*Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England*

**Newsletter No 153 – May 2013**

**More information at [suttonpoyntz.org.uk](http://suttonpoyntz.org.uk)**

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## **Society AGM**

Thanks are due to Mark Tewkesbury, the Chairman of the Borough Planning Committee, for speaking at the Society AGM, and for walking around the village with members beforehand to try to form a view of best (and worst) building practice. The AGM was attended by over 45 villagers, who approved the Committee's annual report and the Treasurer's report, with thanks to all officials and committee members for their hard work. The Borough Council will be pruning the willows around the pond, but there was a meeting suggestion that villagers might help with this work at the lower levels, but with the shortage of committee members we can ill afford to lose volunteers who fall off ladders into the pond! The Committee will contact First Bus to ensure that tickets issued always show the correct route and starting point, so that route usage can be monitored. The Biodiversity Group have been busy, and all Society events during the year were well supported. The committee elections left a shortfall of members, especially at Treasurer. Many thanks are due to John Bellis, who will be a hard act to follow in this role, not least for his keeping the subscription for the coming year at its current level! It is important that the Society adequately reflects the views of the Village. Being a Committee member is not a huge commitment, so why not attend one of the meetings, see what is involved, and perhaps volunteer to help?



Is this now the official SP notice board?

### **Sign Post at the top of Plaisters Lane (Greenhill)**

Peter Jones reports that Dorset County Council seems uninterested in repairing the vandalised sign due to financial constraints, but he will keep trying. Failing this there is a Finger Post project partly funded by the Dorset AONB. This entails a community recreating sign arms in accordance with regulations, which DCC reinstate on their behalf. Part funding for materials is available through the AONB. Peter is willing to lead this project in the Village if enough helpers/handy men assist. If you are prepared to help please let Peter know on [PJonesHamp@aol.com](mailto:PJonesHamp@aol.com) or telephone 01305 833288

### **We CAN now see the bus for the trees**

Following the reprise of the Village bus service, Ian Bruce organised a site meeting with First Bus, the Borough and County Councils, the Sutton Poyntz Society and residents at the Preston end of Sutton Road. First Bus requested some road markings, now done, and also that some overhanging trees are cut back. The Borough Council will try to find out who owns scrub land opposite the electricity station on the hill but they have carried out some clearance on that land before, so hopefully all First Bus's requests can be met, with no further threats to withdraw the service – for the near future anyway.,

### **Trees lose their heads**



Extensive clearance work and tree pruning has taken place on land parallel to Puddledock Lane. Personally I think it is an improvement. Have a look at the picture and see if you agree.

Have a look at the picture (sorry about the quality!) and see if you can guess the event and the year. Email me with your answer - the first name drawn from all correct answers will win the prize.



Remember, you have to be in it to win it!

### **Homewatch**

Peter Jones attended the AGM of the Dorset Association of Homewatches. Martyn Underhill, the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, is committed to improving community policing via Homewatch. Community Speedwatch, part of the police No Excuse campaign, is also being introduced, where communities set up a monitoring body for their speed restricted roads. These groups will receive specialised training, initial police supervision and loan of monitoring equipment. The performance of the 101 non-urgent police reporting number has caused many complaints; this, and Ringmaster messaging, is being reviewed. More special constables are being recruited but not for use in the police neighbourhood teams.

The recent Rural Crime Exhibition at Kingston Maurward provided a comprehensive display of the latest items for home and business security, which may be viewed at [www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org](http://www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org), selecting the Products tag.

### **The Village goes walkabout**

Richard Backwell is leading a village walk on Sunday 9 June, starting from the Athelhampton House car park (GR 770942) at 10.30 am. The walk will head towards Admiston Farm, and then on to Affpuddle Heath, pausing for refreshments. A packed lunch

will then be taken at Affpuddle church. The route back to Athelhampton mainly follows the valley. The word 'mainly' always worries me, but I am assured that there are no steep hills, and the total distance is 7½ miles, returning in time for a (cream?) tea at Athelhampton. Please bring your own packed lunch, refreshments for along the way, and stout footwear.

### **Evening walks**

No evening walk is currently planned, but sufficient popular demand could cause a rethink - so be nice to Richard!

### **Forthcoming events**

The Friday Art Group is holding their first ever exhibition at the Mission Hall on the **Saturday 15 June, 12 - 5pm, and Sunday 16 June 11am - 4pm**. Everyone is invited to drop in to admire their work, and to enjoy tea and cakes. They are a very talented group, so please give them your support.

The ever popular Village Cream Tea will take place on **Saturday 20 July** in the Mission Hall garden or in the Hall itself if wet. Dave Martin reminds us that the Scarecrow Competition runs from **Saturday 20 July to Saturday 3 August**. There is no theme this year, which should allow full rein to those imaginative ideas that have delighted us in the past

The Scarecrow Competition ends with the judging at the Vegetable Show on **Saturday 3 August** in the Scutt Hall. It's still not too late to be nurturing those potentially prize winning entries, especially for the Spud in a Tub!

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairman	Bill Egerton	832872		
Secretary	Shirley Davies	319554		
Treasurer (vacant)				
John Crisp	832529	John Sutherland	832227	
Peter Riley	834653	Peter Sheaves	833338	
Sue Wintle	834209	David Rees	833867	

Forthcoming Committee meetings (to be confirmed)

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 7.30, in the Mission Hall

News, views or anything of interest? Please contact the editor by e-mail