



# Sutton Poyntz Society

*Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England*

**Newsletter No 163 – September 2015**

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

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## **They certainly know their onions - and other veg as well!**

Tension was in the air as the competitors displayed their entries in the Village Vegetable Show at the Scutt Hall. The £3 entry included a voting slip, delicious homemade cakes and a cup of tea, and while the votes were counted the Spud in a Tub Competition was judged. Horny handed sons of the soil dug the potatoes out of each pot and these were diligently weighed. John Sutherland did not trouble the scorers too much with his 0.29 kilos (that's 10 ounces in old money) and from half



way it looked as though Jane Walsh was going to romp home for the third time in a row with her 1.52 kilos but she was just pipped at the post by a late run from Anthea and Tony Heathershaw with 1.70 kilos. After thanking the ladies - Ruth, Anthea, Pat and Sue - for the refreshments, the noble spud weighers, all competitors and everyone who attended - Bill Egerton presented the certificates to

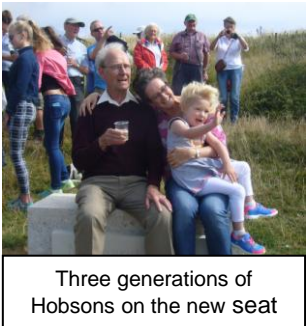
the competition winners as follows :- Longest runner bean; Dave Caddy; Longest cucumber: Dot Emblen; Heaviest marrow: Peter Riley; Selection of herbs: Chris Balfe; 3 carrots: Mike Haine; 3 tomatoes: Joyce Faraday; Single lettuce: Bill Egerton; 3 courgettes: John Sutherland; 3 beans (any kind): John Newbould; 5 soft fruit (same or mixed): equal Ros Evans & Jane Walsh; Anything grown in the greenhouse: Ivy Sutherland; Any vegetable not already listed: Dot Emblen; A bunch of flowers: Ros Evans; A bunch of different leaves: Ros Evans. Sadly there was no scarecrow competition result to announce, but everyone agreed it had been a marvellous morning, and the proceeds of £113 have been delivered to the charity Waves by Bill, so it was a good result all round.



A Bill in the bush!

## **Margaret's Seat unveiled**

High above Sutton Poyntz, with beautiful views over Weymouth Bay, local resident Mick Hobson erected a seat in memory of his wife Margaret, a lovely lady well remembered by many older villagers. For a number of years this seat provided a welcome rest spot after the long, steep walk up from the village. However last year it suffered major damage, and there were numerous requests that the seat should be replaced. The Sutton Poyntz Society took on the task, but found that the cost and logistics were daunting. A chance meeting between John Crisp, then acting Chairman, and Councillor David Mannings resulted in a much needed and substantial grant from Dorset County Council to add to the donations collected in the Springhead Pub. This enabled a suitable stone to be purchased with the simple inscription "Margaret's seat" on the front. The next



Three generations of  
Hobsons on the new seat

problem was to prepare the foundations, so Jez Cunningham, John Crisp and Clive Davies rose to the challenge with some energetic and skilled shovel and pick work. The stone then had to be transported to the site, which is where local farmer Peter Broach kindly stepped in, providing some heavy lifting equipment. He delivered the stone and carefully lowered it onto the prepared foundations. So it was that over 30 friends and well wishers accompanied Mick Hobson and Margaret's children Kathryn and Andrew plus their families to the site for the officially 'unveiling' of the stone. John Crisp described the refurbishment of the seat, and Mick, after the unveiling, eloquently thanked all who helped and attended. Then everyone toasted the occasion with sparkling wine provided by the Springhead and agreed that this was a task well carried out, a tribute to all who contributed and, of course, to Margaret herself, who loved this particular spot.

## **Village Beacon will light the way**

Wessex Water paid for the refurbishment of the Beacon by Simon Grant-Jones, and it presently resides in Bill Egerton's barn awaiting painting - I don't know what colour he has in mind! When it is ready George Lunn has promised to provide heavy lifting gear to get it back up to the site on the hill, where it will be installed in all its former glory.

### **Today's the day the Villagers have their picnic!**

The weather obliged, and on a sun dappled afternoon (see photo!) a good time was had by all who attended the Village picnic in the Mission Hall garden. An abundance of excellent food - ham, quiche, salmon, salad and desserts to die for - plus good company made it a very special event. Maureen and her band of helpers are to be congratulated on their organisation, and the magnificent total of over £400 was raised for the Mission Hall.



### **Pimms, Pimms and more Pimms**

A new event and one that deserves to become a fixture in the calendar. Again held in the Mission Hall garden in clement weather, the main course was individually prepared kebabs barbecued to order by a team of expert sous chefs, and all washed down with litres of a drink that admirably suited the occasion. Jacqui - organising her first SP Society event - and her band of helpers produced an excellent and novel afternoon's dining experience, very much enjoyed by all who attended.



### **Dog attacks on Sheep**

George Lunn, whose sheep and lambs run on the fields and hills around the village, tells me that already this season there have been four fatal attacks on sheep by dogs. In one case two sheep had to be destroyed after vicious attack by a loose black Labrador. Another was the dog of a local lady which savaged a lamb, again with fatal results. The owner in this case paid compensation, and is voluntarily attending a training course. George asks that if your dog will not return to you, when called, after becoming excited by livestock then it should be on a lead. Sheep are moved from field to field and can be encountered unexpectedly so If in any doubt, use your lead. Another problem is that more sheep are becoming infected by dog tapeworm from dog faeces. 'Bag it' applies equally to a walk in the country as on a city street!

## Head of the pond

The Committee would like your views on landscaping the area at the top of the pond. After allowing for cars - separated by a low wall or wooden planters? - there are about 4 metres clear, perhaps for a village notice board? Other suggestions are lowering the wall, resurfacing and seat(s). Depends on cost, of course, but what do you think?

## Recent Events

**Cream Teas** : Sue Wintle tells me that the Cream Teas afternoon (reported last Newsletter) raised over £210 for the Society. Well done indeed to everyone who helped make this such a success.

## Forthcoming events

**Coffee mornings** : The winter coffee mornings will be starting again in the Mission Hall between 10.30am and noon on the first Friday in October then through to March. Entry was £1.50 - it may be more this season - but that includes coffee and cake. Each event hosts a theme, and ideas for these are needed. Let me know if you can suggest any.

**Christmas Carol Service** : On Monday 21 December at the Mission Hall. The Salvation Army band will be there, and mulled wine and mince pies will be available afterwards.

There are a number of other events rumoured to be in the planning phase - Bonfire night at beacon? A History evening? Something special in February? Watch your Newsbites for more information.

## Business matters

**Subscriptions** to the SP Society. If you have missed paying when past newsletters were delivered then please help your hard working delivery person. Put your £4 subs into an envelope, add your name, and pop it through their letter box, or that of any committee member.

**Minutes** of the Society monthly committee meetings are now on the web site.

**Organising an event?** Send the editor a reminder about a week before it takes place so that a Newsbite can be circulated.

**Newsbites** Brief email news updates are circulated between Newsletters. Contact [newsletter@suttonpoyntz.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@suttonpoyntz.org.uk) to receive these.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chairman Mike Blee 458763**

<b>Secretary Bill Egerton 832872</b>	<b>Treasurer John Sutherland 832227</b>
<b>Peter Riley 834653</b>	<b>Peter Dye 837139</b>
<b>Sue Wintle 834209</b>	<b>Hilary Davidson 834479</b>
<b>Tamzin Hyde 832103</b>	<b>Jacqui Atkinson 837361</b>
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**Please contact the editor with news or views - copy deadline 1 January**