



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

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More information at suttonpoyntz.org.uk

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Update on Nepal - Good news for the New Year

In April 2015, as we all know from Richard Backwell's previous harrowing accounts, Nepal was hit by a strong earthquake. The initial tremor and aftershocks caused widespread destruction; worst affected were built up areas but many rural villages also suffered. In the area supported by the Okhle Village Trust, 13 houses were badly damaged. Typically those who lost their



Some of the damage

houses were the poor who could not afford higher quality building techniques and materials. The Trust donated funds to allow those who had lost their property to rebuild. In all, 12 of the 13 destroyed houses have been rebuilt, 2 more re-roofed and the last will be completed in February. Sanjur village, never before visited by westerners, lost



.....and after



The rebuilt Sanjur School

their school. With funding provided in June it was rebuilt by November from a pile of rubble into what you see in the photograph, and donations from the WI replaced the toys in the nursery class. During the building work other significant improvements were added e.g. rainwater harvesting to help with the chronic shortage of drinking water. Richard is grateful to everyone who contributed in any way to raise the money, and I think we should be grateful to Richard for all his efforts. I know the people of Okhle are.

(Early in the New Year a Newsbite will be sent out with a link and access instructions to more of Richard's photographs)

Village Beacon lights the way



The first lighting of the newly refurbished beacon, paid for by Wessex Water and carried out by Simon Grant-Jones, was on Bonfire Night, Thursday 5 November. It was originally timed to coincide with the Weymouth fireworks starting on the beach. Seventeen brave souls

attended and this report from survivor Jez says it all.

"Who's got the brightest torch? Bill has a wheelbarrow full of newspaper, kindling, logs, a blowtorch and a stepladder...The wind blows fine drizzle horizontally. The ascent to the beacon is very slippery. Maureen experiences the mud from close quarters. The wind blows out gas lighters, an entire box of matches, and finally it takes the blowtorch (also difficult to light) to get the fire going. All this at the top of the stepladder! But the resulting blaze burns well, fanned by the hurricane. We decide to go the pub even before the Weymouth beach fireworks start. The descent is even more slippery and torch batteries are fading. But the beer is good."



Recent Events

Scout Jumble Sale

Mo Martin tells me that the Autumn Jumble Sale for the Weymouth East Guide and Scout Troop raised the fantastic total of £679. Mo would like to thank everyone who helped, donated and came on the day to spend their money. I think Mo and Dave are also owed a big thank you for their efforts on behalf of the youngsters.

Coffee mornings

Coffee mornings in the Mission Hall have been very well attended. In November Sgt Jane Moore and PCSO Clive Joyner discussed Neighbourhood Watch and residents' concerns, and proved to be most interesting and informative. There was a change to the published schedule at the December event, with a fascinating display put by Guy Bridge about the Victorian Fayre. There will be another Coffee Morning on Friday 8 January between 10.30am and noon when Catherine Brew from the Portland Jurassic Project will be on hand to talk about what is being planned.

Carol Service

Due to a senior moment I missed the carols at the Mission Hall, led by the Salvation Army Band, but from all reports they were most enjoyable, and they were followed by the christenings in the pond. This is a marvellous tradition that has become a highlight of the Christmas season.

History Evening

A hall-full of people attended the History Evening on the 28th October, to see a number of slides taken by Fredy Litschi between 1967 and 1992, plus a few earlier photos. The collection includes photos of various village events, including the village's celebration of the



Coronation in 1953 and the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. One of the highlights was to discover a photo of a very young Sue Wintle dressed as Good Queen Bess for the Coronation celebration. There were also various views around the village, including the chimney at the Waterworks and the old riding stables, and a record of

various building projects such as Old Bincombe Lane. Finally there were photographs of the plays put on by the Sutton Poyntz Players in the 1970's and 80's. Despite some gaps, the evening was very successful in identifying people and places. We are just in the process of putting the photos on the village website, and we hope more names will be identified.

Top 'o the pond

The planters have been installed by a team led by Bill Davidson, although they appear to have been knocked off their supports a couple of times since. This will not happen once they are filled with top soil, and plans to purchase this are well advanced. The new notice board, provided by the Wilson family in memory of their parents, John and Lesley, has pride of place in what will become a very pleasant area to be enjoyed when some better weather comes along.

Puddledock Lane

Talking of better weather, the excess rain has certainly made Puddledock Lane nearly impassable to anyone not wearing boots, preferably of the wellington variety. Once the authorities have sorted out the problems with the Forth Road bridge, perhaps we could ask them to look at building a suspension bridge from Sunnyfields to Sutton Road, with all tolls going to the SP Society!

Homewatch

The National Homewatch Association is considering a 5 year Strategic Plan, with high aspirations; perhaps optimistic in these times of budget cuts? Peter Jones has submitted his view to reflect this opinion and he is not in favour of members paying an annual subscription either. The village Homewatch will continue on a volunteer basis to achieve its aims of neighbourly education, information and support. We are under constant threat from scams, trickery, cold callers and general crime so please be aware and keep yourself and your neighbours safe. The non-urgent crime number is 101, which costs just 15p in total. Our Safer Neighbourhood team is headed by Sgt Jane Moore and comprises Sgt Steve Yeoman, PC Jane Bayliss and PCSO Clive Joyner.

Forthcoming events

Coffee mornings : In the Mission Hall between 10.30am and noon on the first Friday through to March. Entry is £2 but that includes coffee and cake and an interesting presentation. In January the presentation will be by Catherine Brew from the Portland Jurassic Project; in February it will be a display of Roman remains from the Wyndings dig.

Street Fayre : Sunday 26 June 2016 is, of course, the day of the Street Fayre. Undoubtedly your help will be needed, so mark the day in your diary now and keep it clear. Also a reminder Judy Backwell's request (833349) for any unwanted Christmas gifts, which can be recycled as 'perfect presents'.

DORSET Magazine : Starting around Easter DORSET Magazine will be publishing articles about Dorset villages, and will be starting with Sutton Poyntz. Edward Griffiths will be writing the articles, and says that the village is one of his favourites. He has made several visits to collect information and take photographs, so watch that space as they say!

Business matters

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 to receive these.*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Mike Blee 458763

Secretary Bill Egerton	832872	Treasurer John Sutherland	832227
Peter Riley	834653	Peter Dye	837139
Sue Wintle	834209	Hilary Davidson	834479
Tamzin Hyde	834760	Jacqui Atkinson	837361
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Please contact the editor with news or views - copy deadline 1 March