



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Newsletter No 165 – April 2016

More information at suttonpoyntz.org.uk

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Top o' the Pond Makeover



Following the purchase of the Top o' the Pond land by Sutton Poyntz Ltd. it was decided that the area could do with a makeover. Plans were formulated and put to the village for comment. After general agreement, work started, resulting in the erection of a village notice board and the

installation of three large planters to mark out a pedestrian area distinct

from the car parking. A base layer of Purbeck stone rubble was covered by an enormous - as anyone who has had to dig a large hole will know - quantity of mixed peat and topsoil in the planters, which were then ready to receive a lovely array of blooms and plants. Special thanks are due to Jez Cunningham, Hilary Davidson,



Bill Davidson and Colin Marsh for all their hard work, to the family of the late John and Lesley Wilson for supplying the notice board in their memory and to David Mannings for help with the considerable financial assistance received from Dorset County Council Community Funding.

Victorian Street Fayre

David Langridge tells me that planning for the Victorian Street Fayre on Sunday 26th June is well underway. To maintain the success of previous years - 6,000 people attending and over £20,000 raised for charities - the Village Stalls are looking for items to sell such as unopened or unused gifts; jewellery, posh hats, scarves and handbags; garden accessories, tools, seeds; good quality paperbacks, hardbacks; DVDs, jigsaws and board games; posh frocks, hats and accessories; shoes, boots; good quality antique and bygone collectables. If you have any of these, please contact Judy (833349) or Sharon (834659). Also cakes will be needed for the cake stall and in the Mission Hall. Of course an army of volunteers will be required on the day, so if you can help, even for just two hours, give Elise a call on 835475.

With the sad passing of Fredy Litschi the village has lost a great stalwart, and founder member, of the SP Society. Fredy - born in Germany with a Swiss mother - met his wife Joyce in Lucerne when she took a post-war tour of Switzerland, and they married in 1947. Living in Streatham, Joyce became a deputy headmistress and Fredy worked in retail in the West End. Fredy and Joyce 'retired' to Camelot in Sutton Road in 1966. Joyce taught in the children's section of Dorchester Hospital, was President of Weymouth Operatic Society and served with distinction on Weymouth and Portland Borough Council for 17 years, becoming Mayor in 1980. Fredy, himself a Dorset County Councillor, supported Joyce in all she did. They were founders of the SP Players and performed in many Thomas Hardy plays. Fredy even adapted Hardy short stories into plays, donning a very fetching smock to appear on stage himself! He loved Sutton Poyntz and researched and published a popular history of the village. There is no doubt that we owe him a great debt of gratitude for his pioneering work on behalf of the SP Society which helped maintain the village we know and love today. Daughter Isolde Martyn, her husband John and granddaughter Claire live in Australia. Our thoughts must be with Isolde and all members of the family at this sad time. There will be a memorial service for Fredy in May, date to be announced.

Homewatch

Dorset Police will see an increase of nearly 2% in funding this year, which will allow extra flexibility in tackling child sexual exploitation, cyber crime (scams) and community policing. In line with national policy the firearms section will be increased and measures taken to combat terrorism. Police Constables will concentrate on front-line duties while PCSOs will support communities. Safer neighbourhood teams will become Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT), with a further 30 additional PCSOs recruited during the coming two years. Although Dorset remains a very safe area, many criminal activities impact especially on the elderly and vulnerable, so the police will carefully allocate resources to the areas that affect our safety. Find out more from Peter Jones (833288) or at the Weymouth and Portland Homewatch Coordinators meeting at Police Headquarters, Radipole on Tuesday 12 April at 6 pm. Remember too that elections will be held for the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner in May.

Recent Events

The Winter Coffee mornings in the Mission Hall have now ceased - as if winter were really over! They were all very well attended with a number of very interesting presentations taking place at each. In fact, such has been the enjoyment of these events that there have been murmurings that there should be more of them. Watch this space!

Into the Dragon's Lair



Coming from Wales, it was natural that I should mention dragons to well known local resident Dave Emery. It was definitely strange however that he should reply casually "Oh, yes, I'm making one of those in my garden!" It turns out that Dave is a talented artist who makes, among other things, stoneware garden ornaments, which are just about everything proof, including being



impervious to frost. These he designs, shapes and fires in sections in his own kiln. He then adds gold ornament, which, after glazing, catches the sunlight, and the final act is to hand paint a design. He has been making these for about four years now, but was making studio items for many years before that. The pictures show Dave at work in his studio and with his latest commission, a dragon winding its way up a column. With lighting added this dragon will grace a local garden both by night as well as by day. I did wonder how long it would take Dave to make a dragon large enough for the Millennium Rugby Stadium in Cardiff, but he didn't seem very keen to start!

Planning

As those of you who receive Newsbites will know, planning permission for housing developments east of Plaister's Lane were refused. The application for development on the site at 42 Sutton Road is under consideration as we go to press.

Neighbourhood Plan

You should by now have received a copy of Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter No. 1, our rival (sister?) publication. This provides information on what the Plan is, the benefits it brings, how it will be produced, the area it covers and the way forward. An important part of the latter are proposed changes to the constitution of the Society, which will be debated at the forthcoming AGM (see below) on Wednesday 13 April.

Forthcoming events

DORSET Magazine : Starting with Sutton Poyntz around Easter time, the DORSET Magazine will be publishing articles about Dorset villages. Author Edward Griffiths, for whom our village is one of his favourites, has made several visits to collect information and take photographs, so it will be interesting to see what he makes of us.

Scout Jumble Sale : Mo Martin tells me that the Spring Jumble Sale for the Weymouth East Guide and Scout Troop will be on Saturday 26 March in the Scutt Hall. Items for sale will be gratefully received, and helpers always welcome. This is one of the major fund raising events for our Scouts and Guides, so please contact Mo on 836322 if you have items they can sell or are able to help.

AGM of the Society : at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 April in the Mission Hall. Business will include the annual reports, election of committee - new members needed, as is a Treasurer - the Village Neighbourhood plan and amendments to the constitution. The latter are available on the web site and at the meeting. This is a most important topic, so please make every effort to attend if you wish to hear other's views and to make your own known.

To be EU or Not to be EU? : John Crisp will be putting together a panel of experts (in what, he doesn't say) to answer questions on the ins and outs of EU membership, which may help you make up your mind as to which way to vote in June. Note the date, Wednesday 25 May, for an interesting and informative evening at the Mission Hall.

Street Fayre : As already mentioned, Sunday 26 June 2016 is the date of the Street Fayre. Undoubtedly your help will be needed, so mark the day in your diary now and keep it clear.

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
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Please contact the editor with news or views - copy deadline 1 July