

Sutton Poyntz Society

Chairperson's Report , April 2020

Introduction and committee members

At the AGM last year a vote of thanks was given to Bill Egerton for all his sterling work in many different roles within the Society. Andy Hohne agreed to continue in his role as Treasurer and also to stand as Secretary. Hilary Davidson volunteered to stand as Chairperson for the committee. We have had a full committee of 12 hard working members throughout the past year.

Chris Balfe has decided to stand down as a committee member so we will be looking for volunteers to join us.

Chris Hubbard has proved invaluable to the committee as minutes secretary and to the whole village with his regular informative and very entertaining newsbites as well as our newsletters. He has sadly decided that he would like to retire from these duties and I know all members would like to thank him very much for all his support and hard work. We will miss him.

Tasks undertaken by the Society Committee on behalf of the village

Social events

During the year the committee have organised many social occasions which have brought the community together. Regular Friday coffee mornings are held during the winter months which provide a time to chat over delicious cakes. We held a Race Night which was very popular and noisy. During the summer months we had a Cream Tea, the very popular Vegetable Show and the Scarecrow Competition. The latter was a great hit with locals and many holiday visitors and featured on a You Tube video! A very relaxing Pimm's and Ploughmans afternoon was held in the orchard. A large group of village walkers, led by Richard Backwell, marched to Hardy's Monument and back down to the pub for a meal, well earned drink and a chat. A new venture of a Murder Mystery night was held in the Autumn with a delicious supper prepared by Dave Burge and great entertainment provided by a local drama group.

Communications

We continue to issue several newsletters each year, with Goadsby generously covering the costs of printing. These are delivered by volunteers, although a growing number of residents are happy to receive the newsletters electronically which is a great help to the volunteers who deliver! Chris has regularly emailed with newsbites informing the village of events and news. Bill Egerton has kindly continued to maintain the village website.

Improvement projects

Since the last AGM the final improvements to the pond have been completed with new stones edging the bottom end of the pond to protect the edge from parked cars. Thanks to Jez's hard work with Wessex water the new bench has now been installed up at the beacon and has been enjoyed by many locals and visitors. The village 'library' and information centre in the phone box has proved very popular with villagers and visitors and is well stocked with books and magazines as well as useful walking and history leaflets. A very attractive and informative History Board has been installed at the top of the pond, the content was provided by the History Group.

The SPS acts as an umbrella organisation for the Biodiversity and History Groups and the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

Biodiversity- led by Dave Emery, John Newbould and Colin Marsh. A regular group of volunteers work with Wessex Water on land management in the local village area, they will always welcome new volunteers.

On going activities these include a monthly garden bird watch, the monthly Biodiversity newsletter and wildlife monitoring.

History Group- led by Bill Egerton and Caroline Crisp

The history group completed the work for the new History board at the top of the pond and also run interesting History evenings during the year.

We would like to thank these groups and the volunteers for all their hard work in the village, they would always welcome new volunteers to join them.

Neighbourhood Planning

After a great deal of hard work over several years the steering group led by Peter Dye submitted the plan to the Local Authority. In February the referendum was held and the majority of villagers who voted were in favour. On behalf of the village we would like again to thank all the people involved in this huge project which took many hours of hard work.