

## EAST STOUR VILLAGE PLAN UPATE

As reported to The Stours Parish Council, Sept 13

### 1. Village History Project

Guy Gilding is leading this project. It is starting with research into the village men who went to the First World War, after finding a piece of wood in his attic listing the names of the men who built his house in 1912. He has found some inaccuracies in the village war memorial stones (in the VHall entrance and at the Church) and we are researching how to get authority to amend them. Guy plans various activities including visiting local schools, and is preparing a Heritage Lottery Fund application. This project will be in preparation for the centenary of outbreak of WW1 next year.

This project marks just the start of the History Group! Anyone interested in joining the group, please contact Guy at [guygilding@hotmail.com](mailto:guygilding@hotmail.com) or telephone 838271

### 2. Bulk Buy Scheme for Heating Oil

After research, Sandy Mould has supported FindMyHeatingOil.co.uk, a purchasing consortium that combines people's oil orders to achieve bulk buy prices. All villagers (and anyone in the Stours Parish) can join for a £15 annual fee - Sandy saved £60 on his initial purchase of 600 litres! **When joining, please state you are joining the East Stour Village scheme**, then a small commission is returned for VAP fund.

Contact Sandy or his wife Claire by telephone on 838767 - or Chris at FindMyHeatingOil on 01380 818724 or at his website [www.findmyheatingoil.co.uk](http://www.findmyheatingoil.co.uk)

### 3. Village Planting

The orders are being prepared for ten trees (for the playing field) plus 4,000 daffodil and crocus bulbs for verges (mainly along Back Street and in front of the village hall and at the roadside at three of the village entrances) for planting in October/November. In fact, an eleventh tree is being donated from village hall funds in acknowledgement of the wonderful long service of Oliver Salisbury on the hall committee – he joined the initial committee in the early 1970's and recently retired after many years as chairman.

The kerbs at the entrance to the VHall car park have now been realigned. The Parish Council has kindly agreed a further reimbursement of the final costs of £274.78 to complete the Hedge project.

The landscaping on the parcel of land on the A30 east of the crossroads is due to start in September.

Sadly, our two leaders are out of action. John Gould escaped without serious physical injury from a car crash but is undergoing heart monitoring in hospital. Penny Brentnall has had an operation on a finger - and must not use a spade (or even a little planting fork) for at least eight weeks!

We now need to form Planting teams to plant the trees and all the bulbs. **HELP NEEDED PLEASE!!** How about families, groups of neighbours or social clubs, or you offering to join in? Local businesses can help and be rewarded by a sign acknowledging their support – this is good advertising!! Contact Penny at 838028 or me (see below)

#### **4. The Stours Village Market**

The possibility of re-starting a village shop has been investigated and now pronounced not feasible. However, the research revealed there is good support for a village market. Julia Gould has initial plans to hold this in the village hall monthly starting on Saturday afternoon 11 November, with a wide variety of stalls both from the village and surrounding area.

If you wish to have a stall or have ideas or can help in any way, please contact Julia at [hotchpotchjulia@btinternet.com](mailto:hotchpotchjulia@btinternet.com) or telephone 838788

#### **5. Swap Shop**

Guy Gilding is planning for the first Swap Shop to be held in the spring at the village hall. It will enable villagers to “trade” their unwanted goods and garden produce for other goods rather than money. Guy has lots of ideas and would love to hear from anyone interested in getting involved!

Contact Guy at 838271

#### **6. Bench Seats**

We have a delightful offer from Frances Austin-Jones to fund the cost of a bench seat in the playing field, in memory of her husband. However, the Village Action Plan has no funds except for those raised for Planting projects. Would you or any village groups or businesses like to make a donation to village bench seats – or generally to the Village Action Plan????

Contact David Little (see below).

If you have any questions or would like to get involved in a big – or even tiny! – way in the Village Action Plan to help improve life in our village, please contact me. There are other Actions waiting to get underway but, if no-one shows interest and/or support, not much is likely to happen.....

**David Little**

**Village Action Plan Coordinator**

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