

# EAST STOUR VILLAGE ACTION PLAN

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## THE STOURS PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE - July 2014

### 1. Village History (Guy Gilding)

Guy reports: 100 years ago our village had nearly the same population as today. Within 4 years 19 men were dead and more were wounded and scarred (please note I say 19 because I believe one man is missing from our memorial). With recent conflicts in mind, what would we be feeling today if our village lost 19 men in combat? I want to make sure that the men from this village who lost their lives are remembered.

What is the point? Surely it is that we must always try to pass on to the youth of today the knowledge of what happened in the past.

To this end I would like to start the East Stour History Group with a focus entirely on WW1. Deb Fanner and I have already completed a huge amount of research about the men, but there is much more to do. We urgently need to trace living descendents of these men, find archive data, photos, documents, press cuttings - anything! We already have photographs of two of the men so we now need to find seventeen more - and they are out there to be found.

If you would like to be part of this project please contact me and *please* talk to whoever you know, because living history is one of the most vital assets we have. Can you contribute?

### 2. Playing Field (John Gould - gradually retiring!)

The tidy up of the entrance from Witch Lane, including painting the safety railings, is imminent. Phil Buttress has done some extra work pruning trees, strimming and clearing nettles and scrub. Some areas are being managed to benefit wildlife.

One of the eleven new trees and its protection frame has been broken off, and John fears the repaired tree will not recover. Since John's retirement, our progress has slowed as we plan (and submit grant applications) for the circular footpath around field - an ambitious project!!

### 3. Children's Play Area (David Little)

Phil Buttress is doing more frequent grass cutting around children's play equipment.

The new picnic table funded by the Parish Council has been placed on a new concrete plinth - what do you think of recycled plastic?? It will be maintenance-free - as long as no idiot lights a BBQ on it (the cause of the demise of an old wooden table)!

### 4. Planting (Penny Brentnall)

Activities continue slowly (more help needed) with continuing hard work being done by John Gould in nurturing and weeding the splendid new beech hedge at the Village Hall car park.

The 4,000 daffodils planted along Back Street (with a few at the village entry signs) looked splendid in March and April! Penny has plans for many more daffodils around the village to include outlying areas - where would you like to see them?

If you have any other ideas, contact Penny.

### 5. Seats (Tony Jones)

The two seats donated by Frances Austen-Jones are in place, with one facing the wonderful country views. A third seat that Liz Robertson has refurbished will be placed soon.

### 6. A30 Land near Oswalds Barn (c/o David Little)

The landscaping the site has slowed as we need a new Leader to manage it - offers please!

The poppies have looked splendid and, after they've finished flowering, Brian Down will apply weedkiller before we seed the new grass and plant some trees

### 7. Stours Villages Markets (Julia Gould)

The next one will be on Sunday 7 December from noon to 3pm

### 8. Oil Buying Scheme (Sandy Mould)

This will continue to save both money and time for members (anyone in surrounding villages is welcome to join!). Non members - why pay more than you need to??

**9. Village Hall Renovation** (Lewis Fanner, Guy Gilding, David Little)

The Village Hall Scrubbers (!) got the ball rolling with a spring clean. The Refurbishment Group is developing sub groups to research colours, materials, priorities, fund raising and grant applications, seek volunteers, visit other halls etc and will make recommendations to the Hall Committee for their approval. Some electrical upgrading is necessary and a report on the remaining life of the flat roof is awaited - costs here will dominate decisions on the meagre funds available. Volunteers and supporters must come forward please!

Phil Brown and David Little relaid the side patio - saving over £1,200 against the professional quote.

Look out for the Community Matters green token collection at Waitrose throughout July. This should be a great help to us - please tell your friends to support us!

Contact details for the names above are in the Village Action Plan, at the back of the Village Plan booklet, in the East Stour Village Newsletter - or contact David Little (above).