

VILLAGE ACTION PLAN UPDATE - February 2015

No-one has come forward to be the VP Coordinator at so I'll therefore coordinate what is worthwhile with remaining ongoing projects. Some of our funds will be used to finance these, and a donation will be made to the Village Hall refurbishment (one of the VAP projects).

Wild Flower Meadow. This emerging project is due (yet again!) to the enthusiasm of John Gould to maintain and improve our village environment. The site is the former derelict and overgrown parcel of land on the A30 near the crossroads and adjacent to Oswald's Barn. John has spent many hours researching ownership, considering alternative ideas, getting authority from Dorset CC (the landowners) and the various utility companies, co-ordinating with the Parish Council, successfully inviting Andrew Mills to level the land with his digger and Brian Down to take away the green waste and apply weedkiller and Tom Adams to cut down the two diseased trees (no-one charged for their work), speaking to others about how they created their meadows and, of course, to various seed suppliers etc etc. He has had two site meetings with a very helpful lady from Dorset Wildlife Trust on how to create a wild flower meadow (most Parish Councillors attended the second one) - as he says "it's not just a case of throwing down a few wild flower seeds" but ongoing work that needs a great deal of preparation and care and **will need support from villagers to achieve the best results**. Seed estimates are being obtained and I have asked the Parish Council if they will finance the cost (next meeting is 12 March). John has already made a bird box for the site!

Daffodils. Readers will recall Penny Brentnall has organised fund raising (Souper Saturdays), bulb purchasing and planting working parties. A second batch of 4,000 bulbs is now planted - this time along the A30 from both village entry signs, near the church, and various bunches along Back Street up to the Hunger Hill boundary. Perhaps they will be in full bloom by the time you read this!

Village Website and Facebook Page - do look at www.east-stour.org.uk and www.facebook.com/pages/East-Stour-Village-Dorset and submit anything of village interest - including local photographs - to Natalie, the Website Administrator

Finances

I intended to publish the final accounts in this newsletter but there is too much detail. If someone will volunteer to audit them, they can be posted in full on the village website - a copy will be provided to anyone on request. Since the last newsletter, significant transactions were Super Saturday which raised a net £226 (well done again, Penny!), £360 spent on daffodil bulbs, and our website domain licence etc renewed at £36. Our current balance is £710.

David Little
(Formerly) Village Action Plan Coordinator
Tel 839882; email: d.little280@gmail.com

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