

MAY 1963

1. Best Kept Village Competition. At the Parish Meeting on the 25th March it was decided to enter this year for the competition which is for villages with a population under 400. A Committee, consisting of Messrs F.G. Armstrong, A. Cutting, H.E.P. Mann, A.E. Henderson, S. Guylas, A.S. Villar, and R.H. Errington, was elected to superintend the necessary organisation and preparations. The Committee has held two meetings and inspected the village to see what is required to be done. The items noted and the action proposed were as follows:-
 - a. Village Green - The mowing of the Green was discussed; Mr. Mann made many helpful suggestions and offered the use of agricultural implements. The Parish Council at their meeting on 27th May decided on action concerning all matters affecting the Green viz:

Mowing and what can be done about the ugly tracks; and the roadway and path on the north side.

The Parish Council have voted an expenditure of £10 to provide a footpath and carriageway across the Green and the County Council will be approached, through our representative Mr. Walters, about the roadway on the north side. Some residents keep the verges abreast their houses neatly mown. Some are unable to do so owing to the infirmities of age or illness in which case they are asked to give their names to the Committee to enable arrangements to be made for the work to be done in time for the Competition.
 - b. The Lays. - Mr. H.E.P. Mann has kindly undertaken to do what is possible on the West side; in the short time available it cannot be as perfect as he has made the Eastern portion.
 - c. Roadside Verges - The County Council accepts responsibility for a depth of three feet from the roadside; the remainder, where necessary, will be arranged for by the Committee. The County Council will be asked to co-operate.
 - d. Houses - Thedwastre R.D.C. have co-operated by painting Council Houses externally. Many private house-owners have done the same which the Committee has noted with pleasure.
 - e. Gardens - The gardens of Tostock are one of its brightest features. The Committee is arranging for prizes to be awarded for the three best gardens; details will be published shortly. Where gardens have hedges it is hoped that owners will trim them, if needed, before Monday 24th June.
 - f. Village Hall - The Maintenance Committee have undertaken to be responsible for the Hall and surrounding premises. It would be nice if the gravel path from the gate to the entrance door could be defined.
 - g. Churchyard - The Parochial Church Council are justly proud of our Churchyard; but a special effort will be made to make it better than ever.
 - h. Litter - LITTER in CAPITAL LETTERS! That is where villages fall down. Mr. S. Guylas has kindly undertaken to organise a team of boys and girls as Litter Wardens who will ensure that Tostock is everywhere free of unsightly litter. A fund will be available to pay the Wardens a fee.
 - i. Voluntary Labour - It will be realised from the above that the Committee need the help of volunteers. Mr. F. Armstrong, the Chairman, has kindly agreed to organise this. From past experience in Tostock the Committee is confident that a good team will be formed. Will all who are willing to help please meet on the GREEN at 7 p.m. on TUESDAY 11th and WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE, armed with shovels and/or spades, reaping-hook etc.
 - j. Important Dates - The whole village must be ready for a preliminary inspection by the Committee on MONDAY 24th JUNE. The date of the first judging is MONDAY 1st JULY.
2. Village Hall. In Chronicle No. 21 it was reported that the Management Committee were in need of funds both for the maintenance and improvement of the Hall. On 18th March the Annual General Meeting was held; the Management Committee was elected in accordance with the standing orders and Mr. C.P. Nobes was elected Chairman for the year. In addition a Maintenance Committee and an

Entertainment Committee were elected. The latter consists of Mrs. Glendinning, Mr. V. Gregg, and Mr. G. Turner, presided over by Mr. Nobes. They held several meetings which culminated in an open meeting on 24th May when it was decided to hold a Fete on Saturday 27th JULY.

Mr. Henderson has kindly provided a field in Tostock Place where the Fete can be held; everything is being thought of to make it a great attraction. It will include a Fair with swings and roundabouts etc., many side shows, competitions with over 70 prizes, a licensed bar and a worth while Draw. In the evening, commencing at 8 o'clock, a Grand American Lamb Barbecue and Dance will complete the day's entertainment.

This ambitious scheme still needs helpers. If you can assist please give your name to the Fete Secretary, Mr. F. Armstrong, or better still come to the next open meeting at the Gardeners Arms on Friday 7th June at 8 p.m.

A Guarantee Fund to meet initial expenses has been opened. Fourteen residents have guaranteed at least £1. each and the Drama Club has guaranteed £5. all as loans. They are being asked to pay the money to Major Woodcock at the Post Office; the Hon. Treasurer will send them receipts. Of course, if any Guarantor would donate the money instead of lending it, that would be exceedingly nice!

3. Drama Club. The Club is arranging to give their next performance at the end of November or early December; rehearsals will commence in September. More Actors and Actresses are needed; even those without previous experience will be very welcome. Play reading is taking place each month during the summer at which newcomers would have the opportunity of preliminary practice.

In addition to producing plays the Club arrange coach trips to see professional productions in Cambridge, Ipswich and Norwich. So all members, even those who can only help behind the scenes, can derive entertainment from belonging to the Club.

On Whit Monday the Club is entering a "float" depicting "Desert Island Discs" in Needham Market Carnival. It is hoped that Tostock friends will come to cheer them as they pass.

4. Darby and Joan Club. On Saturday 25th May a Sale was held in the Village Hall. It was organised by Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Fuller and Mrs. Purkiss. The proceeds amounted to £22:6:0d. The organisers and the ladies who helped them deserve many thanks.

On Wednesday 24th July at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall the Rev. F. Adams will show a film illustrating the world wide activities of the Missions to Seaman. Members will be informed more fully about the arrangements in due course.

5. Champion Clay Pigeon Shot. Readers of the Bury Free Press have seen the interesting announcement on 3rd May that Mr. Stephen Guylas of Ferndale, Tostock, has become Clay Pigeon Shooting Champion of Great Britain. This is a distinction for Tostock and the Chronicle extends to Mr. Guylas hearty congratulations.

Mr. Guylas is giving an exhibition of clay pigeon shooting at the Hardwick Fete on Whit Monday.

A Clay pigeon shooting competition is being held in Tostock on Saturday 20th July. Mr. Guylas will be demonstrating and giving tuition prior to the commencement of the competition which is attracting competitors from all over the Eastern Counties. Prize money to the value of £75 must be won and the competition is something that should not be "missed"!

6. Countryside Notes. Boys girls and parents! Have you seen the new law concerning birdnesting? On 24th April the East Anglian reported that the Home Secretary had made an order that "the eggs of the blackbird, chaffinch, coot, greenfinch, black-headed gull, hedge sparrow, linnet, moorhen, robin, skylark, mistle thrush, song-thrush, and wren are to be protected This means that any person who TAKES OR DESTROYS ANY OF THESE EGGS WILL BE LIABLE TO A FINE UP TO £5."

Springtime has been a chilly time this year. On 21st March the wind was in the north east. Mr. Charles Calver was heard to say that because of that, the wind would remain in that quarter until 21st June. There is some truth in old country lore.