

Transition Group Report

March 2024

Over the winter, a number of oak saplings from the Woodand Trust have been planted to fill in gaps around the Jubilee Grove. A line of oaks has also been planted along the fence by the Old Police House in the School playing field. These will provide shade for the pupils in the years to come if they survive.

All the surplus protectors with their stakes from the failed saplings have been collected up from around the Jubilee Grove and are now stored in two crates kindly donated by T5 Builders.

A second deposit of discarded carpet has been cleared from the Grove. The area is now checked weekly for any signs of misuse. The 'Queen's Canopy' sign was ripped from its mount but fortunately has been found.

Two officers representing the Braintree District Council Community Gardens and Open Spaces Fund visited the Grove on a very wet afternoon on 8th February. Regular updates are required on the progress of the Grove as part of the agreement of the generous Open Spaces grant which will fund the provision of seating.

Cuckoo Hill Woodyard have made the three benches and, as the weather is improving, concrete bases have now been put in place. The benches will be marked with the initials 'JGW'- Jubilee Grove Woodland- as a security measure- and will be secured in place with metal fixings some time within the next week or so, conditions permitting. The benches will be the assets of the Bures Hamlet Parish Council and will be covered by the Council's insurance policy.

Plans are underway to design an interpretation board for the Grove. Cuckoo Hill Woodyard will make the frame and Spingold of Nayland will be approached to produce the display insert containing a map and information about the Grove and its sponsors.

The Sherpa brush cutter will be ordered within the next few weeks and will be stored in a locked garage in Bures St Mary. This will be purchased with the grant of £1600 awarded to the Transition Group by the Essex Community Foundation. The brush cutter will be used to clear not only the Jubilee Grove of any unwanted undergrowth but will also be used in the Community Orchard adjacent to Tawneys Ride. Volunteers will be very welcome to help with the ongoing annual maintenance of the two sites, especially as the spring growth gets underway.

A residual strip of land running alongside the railway embankment has been gifted to the Bures Hamlet Parish Council to complete its ownership of the entire Grove. The Parish Clerk received the Transferor's completed signed part for the gifted strip of land on 25th January 2024 for safe keeping.

The Transition Group will be holding its AGM on 10th April at 7.30pm in the Garrad Room. Andy Ward has kindly agreed to be the guest speaker, talking about the River Stour and the importance of eels.

Jan Aries 10th March 2024