



Dauntsey Parish Council Drainage Board

Digging up Dauntsey

For those of you who have been following my articles for some time, it will be apparent that Dauntsey has problems in many different areas and we continue to work to resolve them all as quickly as possible. However, as almost everything is achieved by persuading others to provide money and/or effort, the order that jobs are done in rather depends on who is willing to work with us.

Looking at what has been done on the ground to reduce flooding, the largest contributions have been made by Dauntsey parishioners and Wiltshire Council... in that order. There has been some work done by InterRoute for the Highways Agency, but much more is still needed.

Locally, Ed Kidner's work led the way. Unfortunately I've been hearing that he is still being given a hard time by a small minority... yet many in The Green haven't been flooded since Ed's work. As a community we owe a lot to Ed, so if you get the chance, thank him for his contribution.



Ditch clearing in Church Lane



As I mentioned in my last report, Wiltshire Council have been here in force. This photograph shows just some of their vehicles that have been around – at one stage, there were 15! As many of you will have noticed, most of the work was concentrated north of the motorway, in and around The Green and at the end of Church Lane near the recreation ground.

They have inspected, cleaned and repaired all the above and below ground roadside drainage through The Green and Church Lane just north of the motorway.

Time and budget have limited work south of the motorway to the clearing of a short length of ditch linking the culverts under Sodom Lane and Church Lane.

The Environment Agency has eventually taken silt samples from the Brook and we are still waiting for the results. I have received complaints from both the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council about the alleged threatening behaviour by a person towards them while they were trying to take these samples. We have been working hard to maintain good relationships with both organisations – much of what we are trying to get them to do in Dauntsey is at their discretion, so this type of behaviour can have a major negative impact on a significant part of our community. Had the owners of this section of the Brook cleared it when it was first suggested then almost certainly it could have been done with no hassle. We now however have a situation where the Environment Agency is being difficult and insisting on licences, waste

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approvals, etc which is likely to extend timescales significantly and could greatly multiply the cost.

There is still a lot more work needed throughout the parish. We continue to do all we can to keep things moving forwards.

Andrew Chapman

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