



Dauntsey Parish Council Drainage Board

Here Come the Boys

It has taken 20 months of hard work, but eventually we, the Drainage Board, and Viv Vines have managed to get a major commitment of effort from Wiltshire Council. After walking the village with Danny Everett (mentioned in the last issue of the Pump), the work started. Danny is a Wiltshire Council Area Highway Engineer and 'The Man' for flooding issues.

The work started with a day each of the gully tanker (pictured right) and its big brother, the Vector. The gully tanker has been back since and may be a regular visitor during the next few weeks. These machines wash and suck out the roadside drains and, using a very high pressure water jet, clear blockages. They also can use a special video camera to inspect the drains... and this has identified further work.

As part of this inspection, it has now been proved that the Great Middle Green Farm development drains into the roadside ditch without any of the special features required by Planning to restrict flow. This has confirmed the fears of those living nearby and provides much needed evidence.



What lies beneath St James
approx 4 ft culvert

Following the inspections, Wiltshire Council has agreed to commit up to 4 weeks full-time effort on fixing drainage problems in the parish. I've provided Danny with a list of 23 different jobs across the parish including Idoer Lane, The Green, Church Lane, Sodom Lane, around Good Monday's Farm and St James. It seems unlikely that they will get through everything, but I'll tell you more in the next issue of the Pump. Danny understands the significance of each of the problems and I've asked him to set the order of work to maximise what can be achieved. Anything left will remain on the list and Danny knows that I will keep chasing.

The work has started with the identification of buried cables and water pipes and then moved into clearing ditches and blocked drains in The Green and Church Lane. After the Bank Holiday, the next task is the replacement of drains along the Brook side of the Green.

It is difficult to predict just how long each phase will take as new problems are uncovered as the work progresses. Unlike many of the quick fixes that we see so often, Danny and his team are being thorough and doing a 'proper job'. They are finding how the drainage used to work, what needs fixing... and then doing it.

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I'm pleased to have met a number of new faces while working in The Green and thanks for your feedback. While I'm out and about, it is always welcome to hear your views – I'm the one with the beard and white hat (and not working), so if you see me, then please feel free to stop for a chat.

On a more negative note, while moving around the parish it is noticeable that a small number of people are dumping grass cuttings and other rubbish onto verges and into hedgerows and adjoining fields. This is generally classed as fly-tipping (unless you own the land or have the landowner's permission), is unsightly and can pollute or block the watercourses (also against the law). I'm sure that you couldn't want someone to dump these things on your lawn, so please don't do it on someone else's land. I know one farmer who, when seeing someone fly-tipping in his ditch, collected everything and dumped it on the culprit's front lawn. The farmer explained that none of the rubbish was his, the culprit had been seen dumping and that it was up to the culprit to identify the owner of the rest and return it. The ditches stayed clear for a long time!



Clearing the ditch by the school

There's quite a lot more happening, but that will have to wait for another issue.

Finally, John Histed is preparing more information for the website and we hope to have more for you there in the future.

Andrew Chapman

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