



Dauntsey Parish Council Drainage Board

Here Come the Boys (and one Girl)... again

In May of last year, I finally persuaded Wiltshire Council to start solving some of Dauntsey's drainage problems. Many of you will remember seeing them in and around The Green as they re-laid, repaired or cleaned various pipes and roadside ditches. The budget didn't permit such work to be done south of the motorway... but at last, I've managed to get them back.



The length of road between the B4069 and the M4 bridge (is this still Church Lane?) had badly blocked ditches, the main culvert under St James was totally blocked (and has been for more than a year) and many other culverts were partially blocked.

This photograph shows some of the rubbish under St James. In these days of equality, it was a female member of the team that was sent down in breathing gear (there's a risk of gas build-up in drains) to clear it out... but she was also the smallest.

Next, they used a high pressure jetting system to flush out most of the remaining rubbish. The second vehicle in the photograph is a water tanker – they get through a lot of water very quickly when jetting!



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Finally, they sent down a rat to look at the state of the pipes. No, this wasn't a new cost-saving exercise by Wiltshire Council but is the machine shown in this picture. The ball on the left end contains a video camera and can be rotated to look forwards or upwards. The whole machine is remotely operated and its trip recorded onto DVD.



The final phase involved clearing the last debris from the ditch. The result looks messy, but very soon it will have levelled and the grass returned.

At the motorway end of the road there has also been a lot of work clearing the ditches. Most of this was without incident, but an electricity supply had been installed without markers in the ditch. Southern Electric had to replace the cable

... in trunking and this time they marked it. Putting services through ditches like this is just asking for trouble, so if you see anyone doing it, try to dissuade them – especially if it is your house that will be cut off!

More work remains to be done, but they've been pulled off to work on another project. I've been told that they will be back in a week or two... and I hope that they aren't diverted again.



Andrew Chapman

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