

2019 – 2020 The Hanneys Flood Group Working Parties

If I can briefly summarise here what we have achieved over the past year, despite some very cold weather, a very full Brook and Lockdown, it has been quite impressive. Each month we have had between 8 – 26 volunteers turn out, many people managing most months. Fantastic turnout in December, despite the temptations of Christmas shopping, where we managed to clear the blocked drainage channel from the Woodland and clear the associated overgrown footpath, identifying a number of other road drainage problems to be sorted out at a later date.

Many working parties have involved removing fallen willow trees from the Brook, cutting back overhanging branches, clearing the mill by-pass flood relief channels and removing large amounts of litter. We have also done some removal of Fool's Watercress, brambles, nettles, overhanging branches to open the banks and the Brook to more light which has benefits for wildlife. Walking along the Brook on a quiet day it is possible to see the Kingfisher, water voles, herons and other wildlife. Otters have not reached Hanney yet but they have been seen and filmed in Charney, Grove and Wantage.

Despite Lockdown small, socially distanced Special Forces teams, have removed a number of trees and logs from the Brook, cleared culverts in East and West Hanney, removed blockages by both Chapels and continued the onslaught on Himalayan Balsam. Throughout the year lively reporting of blocked surface water roadside drains in East and West Hanney by members of HFG to OCC Highways has resulted in the jetting teams making several visits to both villages. Dickon reported blocked Causeway drains to OCC to save the children wading across the road to school. Nicky Kauert brought her tractor and slurry tank to pump and take away 6,000 gallons of water from the road outside the church so that the Remembrance Sunday March and church service could go ahead. I have noticed other HFG members have cleared ditches along Main Street, Ebbs Lane, Winter Lane and around the Community Woodland.

I am looking forward to when we can re-start the formal sessions but do keep alert as there is always something to do which individuals or small groups can deal with in the meantime. We do have a contingency plan for working parties during pandemics which simply involves small groups of experienced members, socially distancing, etc, after a risk assessment of the hazards present at that time.

Full details of the formal working parties have already been posted and continue to be available on The Hanneys Flood Group website - <http://www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk/projects.htm>

Thank you all for all your support, enthusiasm and willingness to turnout each month. Hope to see you all soon.

Clive

The Hanneys Flood Group Committee