

Successful dredging of Wilton Pond 16th June 2018

The spring fed pond in Wilton is loved by everyone and acknowledged as the upstream source of the River Dun and supply of water for the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The Pond has become overgrown with Crassula, New Zealand Pygmy Weed, which cannot be killed by sprays and notoriously colonises lakes once it gets established. We have unsuccessfully asked Natural England and the Canal and River Trust for help and this year the infestation has become very serious.

David Lemon with his farming team of Wayne Watts and Warren Lee made up a Drag Machine which when pulled across the pond would hopefully drag the weed to the opposite side and leave it in a pile close to the road. To enable this to work four stalwarts spent nearly 4 hours in the pond and by the end they were very cold and tired. David Lemon, Wayne Watts, Philip Smith and Jo Long were brilliant and made it all happen.

Once the Drag Machine had been placed behind the weed the wire rope was attached to the forklift and with the considerable help of our manual pulling team of Mark Banting, Simon Blakey and Bob Watts, the fork lift backed across the road and up into the field until the drag had reached the road side bank. The weed was left in a floating pile until we were ready to lift it out of the pond

James Allen from Grafton very kindly brought his digger machine down to the pond and brilliantly scooped up all the weed and dumped it into the Forklift truck driven by Jasper Banting. Trevor Young and Peter Lemon were on traffic control and everyone was fascinated with what was going on as they drove carefully through.

Pam Puig and Roger England spent the 4 hours wading in the pond dealing with all the small outcrops of the Crassula which would have covered the pond if left there this summer. They floated their loaded container across the pond and emptied it with all the other weed by the road. They did a great job ensuring that all the small bits which could have been left were properly cleared away.

So many Mums brought teas, biscuits and cake to keep the troops fed and the kindness shown by so many of our Community has been a real example of The Parish Community Spirit.

Thank you to everyone.