



Village pond update



20 December 2007



POND LIFE



Dear All

As we hope all of you know, there are moves to restore the pond and improve its environs thus re-establishing this neglected area as an attractive focal point both for the village and wildlife.

Alan Clarke (Pudding Cottage), Andrew Laphorn (The Church), James George (Church Cottage) and Tim Weedon (The School House) attended the PCC meeting at The Fenn Bell function room on 3rd December and took with them a proposal with regard the pond, its restoration and future upkeep. It was all well received and the PCC decided to set up a Sub-Committee to co-ordinate and action the approved plan.

At the same time Alan and Andrew are going to be the Tree Wardens and Tim and James the Pond Wardens for the area. This is part of the post restoration plan, (at least to give the impression that some people know what they are doing!).

The Sub-Committee, comprising of Cllr Bob Becky (chair), Cllr Paul Hassell, Cllr Kit Johnson, Warden Laphorn, and Warden Weedon met for the first time on 8th December to discuss the way forward. Also in tow were Wardens Clarke and George.

It was agreed that in the New Year a phased clearance both in and around the pond can go ahead, to be completed by the end of February.

The council will be arranging for the selective pruning of trees by qualified tree surgeons, under the supervision of the Sub-Committee, hopefully resulting in a more measured and considered approach than the last time it was done.

For the moment, the weekend of 19/20 January is the proposed clearance of the perimeter.



Any people wishing to take part on these day/s could they please give their names to James, as the Council has to be notified for insurance purposes.

The clearance / dredging of the pond itself is hoped will happen shortly afterwards. Being classified as an "invasive alien species" the parrot feather weed has to be disposed of in the proper manner. Rest assured, a solution to this is currently being pursued by the Pond Wardens. Until this has been resolved your waders can stay in the airing cupboard.

This newsletter will keep you all informed with regard dates/times etc. Volunteers all welcome. Hopefully it will be done in a party atmosphere with cups of hot soup and rolls around burning braziers and copious amounts of mulled wine, all interspersed with some hard labour. This will be followed at dusk by the inauguration of the newly appointed Pond Wardens in the time-honoured tradition of "Mud Slinging" (literally or verbally, either will do). So should all be fun.

The main aim is that these three major tasks are completed before the end of February ready for the Spring. Otherwise it will be another year gone.

