

A report on the Annual Green Maintenance Programme

The extreme dry weather this summer resulted in an early harvest of hay and as a result Brian Brazington was able to return last week and flail cut the green, something that hadn't been done for at least three years.

He mentioned again that a number of the manhole covers on the green are now sitting 'proud' of the surrounding ground and need soiling in. It was hoped GCC might have some excess soil from the two works recently completed but this did not prove to be the case. The worst three, those to the front of Heythrop and Fletchers Farmhouse and one on the opposite side of the road to College Farm will need to be done before the next cut of hay and ideally we need a working party of volunteers to help. It will involve at least three bulk bags of top soil. There is also a small tree stump outside Porters farm that needs lowering to ground level.

Brian Brazington also mentioned at least two depressions on the green, one outside College farm and the other running diagonally across the green from roughly Maces north, crossing the road and bridal track and ending on the green at the north east of the village. Ideally both of these need to be levelled but will require considerable amounts of soil. This will not only make Brian's cut easier, but he is suggesting the easier the green is to manage, the easier it will be to find contractors willing to work on it in the future.

A large turnout of volunteers meant the bullrushes which were beginning to dominate the village pond are now composting on the ledge to the rear. As well as providing a more balanced ecosystem, it is also hoped this will help in the ongoing attempts to eradicate the water primrose. Despite the EA spraying twice, a small amount of water primrose was found during the removal of the bullrushes. It's possible there are dormant seeds in the pond that will continue to emerge and the EA and Councillor Gorton are continuing to monitor.

During the removal of the bullrushes, it was found that there were areas of the pond that were silted up to a depth of around half a metre. Once the water primrose had been confirmed as eradicated, we should consider a contractor to desilt.

Finally the work around the twin pipes has resulted in some bare patches of soil and these may need further grass seed in the spring.