

Brantingham village pond restoration

In recent years Brantingham pond on the village green has frequently looked in a rather sorry state with low water levels caused, at least in part, by a very noticeable leak into the adjacent beck. Sometimes the pond has completely dried out leaving just an expanse of mud and revealing an ill-fitting edging of kerbstones.

Thanks to a generous grant from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd) , Brantingham Parish Council has been able to fund some pond restoration work by a local company specialising in land drainage and water management. At the end of September when the pond was dry, wooden piling was installed around the pond and backfilled with clay to stop leakage through the sides of the pond. This had the added benefit of hiding the ugly kerbstone edging. Five lorry loads of silt were removed, followed by further slight deepening of the centre of the pond. Nearly immediately water started to appear from underlying water table, with evidence of least one spring feeding into the base of the pond. By mid-October the water level was still quite low, but further filling of the pond is expected following autumn and winter rain, particularly as the water table rises.

Replanting of the pond by the Parish Council has started but it will take a few years for the fringing emergent plants to become properly established. Great care is being taken not to introduce invasive non-native plants sometimes found in garden ponds.

Two of the benches by the pond have also been repaired to a high standard thanks to very welcome funding by KC.

When the pond dried up this summer the ducks left but a small family moorhens remained. Ducks are expected to return which will be welcomed by many visitors. However some silting and water quality problems faced by Brantingham pond have been due to there being too many ducks for the size of the pond. It would be helpful therefore if visitors to the pond would not over feed the ducks or leave excessive amounts of bread on the ground (can attract vermin) or in the water (fouls the water).

The Parish Council hopes that the pond can once more be a central attractive feature of the village, and would like to thank all those who have given their support to this venture.