

# **Flood Warden's Report to Bibury Parish Council**

*Wendy and Phil Challinor*

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## **Flood Wardens Scheme**

Photo ID badges are being issued to trained flood wardens. Training, review meetings and recruitment is ongoing and additional volunteers are welcomed.

Despite the drought of this year, the National Flood Wardens Scheme is being asked to survey the flood risk areas that they are responsible for and to advise land owners and local councils with a view to taking timely action before stronger storms return over the winter.

**River Coln, Bibury Parish,** the river remains at relatively low water levels despite some recent rain. There is concern that the excessive weed growth in the river is reducing the efficiency of the river should water levels build up suddenly in a storm event. One of the main flood risks would be tree branches being washed down to the Arlington Row bridge or the Bibury Mill weir and then being covered in washed out river weeds causing a backup of water. Such a blockage would potentially greatly increase the risk of flooding along Church Lane and Arlington Row.

**Bibury Court** - have been asked if they can remove one very large 6 meter long (800 mm diameter) tree trunk washed into the river, in case it moves and blocks the weir in the event of a winter storm. It is understood that whilst permission has been granted from the Environment Agency to reduce the height of the Bibury Mill weir by approximately 300mm only about a 100mm line of blocks has been removed so far. Bibury Court and Mrs Kennedy have ongoing discussions regarding a further height reduction. CDC advise that a single planning application is needed for all work on tree felling in Lady Hill Covert but where trees constitute a threat to people of property this would be positively viewed and individual tree felling applications would not be needed. Ash die back disease is going to make this an ongoing issue.

**Church House and Lady Hill Covert** – there is a large 3 trunk sycamore tree on the south bank of the river that is leaning dangerously over the river and needs urgent attention as the 3 trunks would all span and partially block the river when they eventually fall. There is also one tree that has already fallen into the river from the Lady Hill Covert opposite Riverside Cottage. There are a further series of trees that are in imminent danger of falling into the river and the requisite land owner has been asked to address this risk. CDC advise that a single planning application is needed for all work on tree felling in Lady Hill Covert (it is within the Bibury Conservation Zone) but where trees constitute a threat to people of property this would be positively viewed and individual tree felling applications would not be needed. Ash die back disease is going to make this an ongoing issue throughout the Parish. Mr Mallinckrodt is aware of these problems.

**Bibury Mill** - no progress has been made in removing the ever increasing build up of silt behind the Bibury Mill weir and in the approach channels to Bibury Mill. Of the 3 sluice gates in front of Bibury Mill one remains uninstalled, one is damaged by a tree fall about 4 years ago and one appears in full working order. To more fully protect the houses along Church Lane and Arlington Row more work is needed to resolve these issues. The sluice gates and the water channels are in a poor condition and it is no longer clear who would operate any of the sluices in a flood risk emergency.

## **Surface Water Issues**

We currently have 7 reported surface water flooding problems:

1. Car park opposite Trout Farm – the drain into the river seems blocked and needs cleaning especially after the fall of autumn leaves.
2. Road dip prior to Quarry Hill on the Barnsley road – as usual the drainage needs attention.
3. Bibury Street - during heavy recent rain almost the entire length was as clearly all the drains were again blocked by fallen leaves.
4. Main road next to Arlington Manor - the manhole cover on the was overflowing (in spite of recent works by Glos Highways to secure the manhole cover). This has been a recurrent problem for many years and probably indicates that roots have again blocked the drain – this problem was dealt with about 6 years ago when Sharon Petchy pressed Glos. Highway to CCTV inspect the drain and then Glos Highway brought in high pressure water jetting equipment to cut through the tree roots.
5. Aldsworth Road near the bungalows – the road gulley drain nearest the bungalows floods every time there is significant rain even when cleared of leaves and this needs serious attention by Glos. Highways.
6. Road from Swan Hotel towards Ablington – this road continues to flood frequently behind the trout farm – this seems to be caused by inadequate road drainage made worse by poor road surface condition which cause long term puddles.
7. Bottom of Awkward Hill – there is excessive water run off in times of heavy rain that threatens the house sin Arlington Row. An cross road interceptor drainage channels is need to divert water into the water Lane leet.

## **Ground Water issues**

With the current “Drought Orders” in place benefitting Thames Water they will be drawing much more water from our local aquifer and this should temporarily reduce some ground water/spring flooding issues. However the gardens of Cobblers Cottage and Osbornes are already under standing water which needs to be monitored.

### ***Matter of Report***

Mat Thomas of the Trout Farm has indicated that he is seeking funding to restore the sluice channels and water meadow systems between the Trout Farm and Ablington and to restore the mill race embankments to their original standards. If he secures funding for this project then this would be very positive regarding flood risk in Bibury Parish and is in line with Environment Agency preferences of small scale up stream flood attenuation projects.