

The logo for Chartridge Green Pond features the text "Chartridge Green Pond" in a dark, handwritten-style font. The background of the logo is a photograph of water with reflections of trees and sky.

## Chartridge Green Pond

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It is over a month since the last and final session on the pond regeneration program, when over 700 native species were planted in and around the pond.

We were truly fortunate with the weather during the three main Sunday sessions. Since we finished, it has rained and rained and rained, with the result that the water level has gone up at least a foot. Absolutely wonderful. I have never seen it so full. You may not believe it, but the water is gradually clearing – the fine clay particles will settle and help to seal the pond. As the water warms up, things will start to grow and I am very optimistic that we will have wonderful clear water.

Finally, the heap of roots and greenery was taken away leaving a bit of a mess. With the ground so wet, it is impossible to work there, so it will have to be left until everything dries out a bit.

Over 60 people were involved in the various parties and I would like to thank everyone who got involved. It really was a tremendous and good humoured community effort. Special thanks to Jane Carling and Margaret Wells who got volunteers to add their names and details to the attendance record. Without so many of us, we would not have got anywhere near the maximum grant offered by the Chiltern Conservation Board, so, again, well done everyone.

Over the coming months the pond will need to have a few working parties to remove what we do not want growing, to clear up floating 'bits', perhaps to re-seed some bare areas with grass and perhaps also some wildflower seed. It really will not need many people, so I will try to run a 'rota' system, calling on different persons. If you know of anyone else who would want to come along, please feel free and do so. I can add them to our list of pond volunteers and they will then be informed of future events.

Some limited grass cutting will be done by me and, I hope, some immediate neighbours, with the aim to keep the roadside and drive verges short and to allow the central area to grow up long and 'meadow-

like'. This will certainly encourage a greater variety of insects, but will allow visitors to get closer to the pond where the grass is cut short.

During the workgroups it became apparent that many people did not know about the various organisation within the village – The Horticultural Society, The WI, The Wine Society to name a few. Of course, we also now have the basics of a Pond Group which we need to put on a more organised footing

Expanding this idea further, perhaps we should have a village publication – short but sweet, setting out the various events being organised, distributed by e-mail or leaflet. At least this will prevent two events being arranged at the same time and will also inform residents of groups they may wish to join. Perhaps a representative from each group could contact me to discuss this? I look forward to some suggestions, perhaps discussed further in the Bell on evening. Keeping things very simple is the key to success here.

As it now appears that we have quite a large 'Chartridge Green', there were enthusiastic murmurings about a summer B-B-Q in some form or other. Is anyone going to volunteer to take this further?

Another suggestion was a competition for young and old alike. For the princely sum of £1 to swell the Horticultural Society Coffers, you would receive two pumpkin seeds, to be sown and grown into whatever monster pumpkin you can produce which is to be presented at a gathering on Chartridge Green some time in October. No doubt some food and drink could be arranged too.....

Last, but absolutely not least, my grateful thanks to Sue Gordon who designed the letter heading in record time after my pleas for help. Thank you, Sue.

