



Trow Pool News Letter

Volume 13, Number 13

August 2005

Editor: James Bryant, Telephone: 01869 602077, E-mail: j_d.bryant1@ntlworld.com

Trow Pool Web Site: http://homepage.ntlworld.com/j_d.bryant1/trowpool.htm

Excellent news, we've fixed the weir at Trow! After successful discussions with Cherwell District Council (CDC), our proposals were approved and we were given the green light to proceed. The agreement was that CDC would supply free of charge the materials (2 tonnes of Oxford clay, 120 sandbags and 70 scaffold boards) and we would supply the labour and tools to do the job. Sorted!

The work was completed on Saturday, 30/7/05 after much planning and preparation.

I arrived with my son, Lloyd at 9.00 a.m. on the day, shortly after that Michael turned up on his trusty bike. The three of us sat on the jetty like the proverbial musketeers pondering how we could attack the job in hand. We finally made a start at 9.30 a.m. and placed enough sandbags in front of the weir to make a dam and suddenly the enormity of the challenge dawned on us. The words S**T and HELP sprang to mind!

Tony arrived next with what seemed like the smallest wheelbarrow ever (only joking) and all four of us continued to move and place sandbags in front of the weir. It seemed like a never ending journey reminiscent of the film Groundhog Day as we became locked in an endless loop of sandbags and clay.

At about 10.30 a.m. the cavalry arrived in the form of Shane, Dean, Chris and Glenn all looking the worst for wear after surviving a night of drink and debauchery (Shane excluded in the later). Now things really started to move as we divided and conquered. Dean, Chris and Glenn headed like ducks straight for the water, while Tony and Michael erected the marquee and the rest of us continued with the weir.

Diann arrived after working a mornings shift at the JR. Being a nurse we thought it a good idea if she prepared the barbecue, the logic being that if we got food poisoning she could also treat us! Unfortunately, cheeseburgers without cheese are a non-starter, so Diann got back in her car and returned home to pick up the cheese from the fridge. It was at this stage that morale was at an all time low and our stomachs began to rumble and even the captured Signal Cray Fish began to look appetising!

Reinforcements arrived in the form of Gary, Tom, Joe and John (I lost count then) and attacked the jobs in hand. Suddenly the battle of the weir slowly turned in our favour as the clay stockpile began to diminish. But just as victory was in sight we decided to take some refreshments (typical) and lunch was served by Diann and Angie. But I think we need an enquiry into who ate all the hot dogs.

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In the final stages of the battle we placed clay between the sandbags and newly positioned timber sleepers to make the weir watertight. But just when the end was in sight the heavens opened and down came the rain. We all ran for cover to the marquee, but Lloyd had a fiendish plan to shelter under the weir – great idea provided it held! After about twenty minutes of continuous downpour, the rain stopped and the sun broke through the darkest cloud, it was then that we saw the light and realised the job was nearly complete.

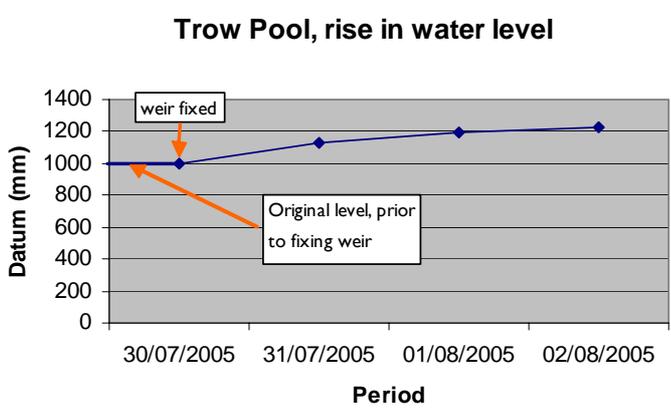
At about 4.30 p.m. we cleaned up and all that was left for Sunday was to clean up and return the tools, then start fishing!

I would like to thank the following who gave up their time to help on the day without whom the task would not have been possible:

Diann Welsh, Lloyd Bryant, Michael Stewart
 Tom Drake, Joe Drake, Dean Harris
 Shane Harris, Angie Harris, Gary Bartlett
 Tony Purbrick, John Baker, Chris Jones and
 Glenn Barlow. See photos.

Thanks also to Tim Green of Cherwell District Council.

The water level is now rising and this will improve the fishing, reduce the weed and improve the quality of the pond life. See chart below for first 4 days after the weir was fixed:



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