

DIG ROUNDUP END SEPTEMBER 2025

General

The dry weather this summer has meant that it has been a quiet period for those residents whose properties are threatened by instances of heavy rain. Our last big downpour (I think) was the 12th May when the locality suffered an unusually heavy thunder and hailstorm. The extent of the hail was such that the stream flooded some rear gardens along Valley Road and threatened in several other places. The flooding happened very rapidly and even invaded some households where hail bunched up and blocked drainage gutters or overwhelmed lead flashing. This just goes to show that it is not always possible to rely upon removable flood defences if you don't have sufficient warning to put them in place.

So let's hope that the coming winter is kind to us. Over the last 2-3 years both Warrendene and Bryants Bottom have seen flooding after prolonged rain, and this has happened repeatedly. Yet the drainage infrastructure in both valleys has remained pretty much unchanged for many years and generally the drainage network performed OK in years gone by. Although we are told to expect more rain because of global warming, it is quite possible that we have been experiencing a cycle of heavy rains recently and I like to think that this pattern of rainfall could change at some point. For the better, I mean. Meanwhile it makes sense to plan for it not to!

There is much made nowadays on villages affected by flooding of setting up their own Flood Action Groups. It is something I have given some thought to, especially as we have several localised areas where flooding occurs and each has its own particular problems. If you want to read more on this subject, Bucks Council provide advice if you follow this link:

[Join or find a local flood action group | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

As it happens, I looked at this just recently and in the **Find Your Local Group list** followed the Hughenden Valley link, and found surprise, surprise that this takes you to the DIG section on the HVRA website. Complete news to me that the DIG is a Flood Action Group.

Warrendene & Valley Road

At the NFM meeting, Andrew Morsley presented the work that could be done to reduce flood waters coming down into the valley. His analysis and report have been developed into an application to the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee for funding. The RFCC are due to report in October.

Meanwhile, during the year several properties at the Harrow and nearby have adopted their own flood defences to try and prevent ingress of water to their properties when the heavy rains hit.

At a meeting with Steve Broadbent in January, we had been promised larger 'tops' would be fitted to the road drains along Warrendene. Having chased progress on this I have just heard that many of the pipe connections into the ditch were found to be blocked and these have all now been cleaned out.

The result, apparently, is improved performance in the network so they are holding fire at present on introducing the larger tops.

Along Valley Road between Hopkins Field and Deeters, Dave Berry and Raz Embleton have formed a small group to ensure the stream bed is kept clear to prevent further instances of flooding there. This section of Valley Road is covered by the NFM project.

Bryants Bottom

Chris Marchant has pulled together a small group of residents in Bryants Bottom have to try and manage the flooding there. BB had its own NFM meeting with Andrew Morsley but their needs are not covered by the NFM project.

The group are endeavouring to seek support from Bucks Council for this work and at the same time the DIG have approached Hughenden Parish Council to see whether funding can be obtained for Andrew Morsley to carry out consultancy work to specify what NFM/drainage works could be carried out in BB.

Thames Water

The sewer in the village hall end of the valley is running fine, I'm glad to say.

Last year, it was suggested that a hydraulic brake system could be installed to relieve the pressure in the system during the winter; the idea of this being to prevent sewage spillages when the main sewer can reach overload.

I've just recently chased up Maizie Banks, our liaison officer at TW to see if there is any progress with this idea. Probably no chance given the current state of the TW finances, I suspect.

Paul Woodford

29 Sept 2025