

## Hambleton Annual Parish Meeting 29 April 2021

The 2020/21 Hambleton Flooding Season (HFS), which extended from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 through 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021, has now passed without any significant signs of water ingress into cellars, overflowing wells or other matters requiring attention by the Flood Action Group (FAG). Our normal surveillance activities for maintaining our resiliency measures and working with the various support services, including the Environment Agency (EA) and the Hampshire Emergency Planning Team, proceeded according to expectations, without major surprises or concerns for villagers. However, we must continue to remain alert to the continual fluctuations of weather patterns and extremes, especially dramatic shifts in rainfall averages and occurrences, combined with the unplanned effects of climate change in the future. The FAG will include all these elements into our planning activities for the coming 2021/22 HFS, and provide as much relevant information as possible in advance of any hazardous circumstances to villagers.

We have increased the membership of volunteers within the FAG to facilitate our geographical coverage of the village, to improve our reaction time, increase the number of trained responders, and to provide succession planning for future support. We are also re-establishing a third aquifer borehole measurement point for Lower West Street, to provide comparison data with the boreholes at Broadhalfpenny Down and Whitedale Farm to enable better prediction of impending risks of flooding. Additionally, this information will be provided to the EA as an early and more accurate first indication of water ingress into our cellars for triggering their Flood Alerts.

The operation and maintenance of the Big Pipe (BP) and its attached inlets, outlets and ditches, remains the star of the show in terms of flood prevention, and is intended to remove the need for road closures of the past. The FAG will maintain its watching brief of the BP systems, and coupled with the Hambleton Parish Council, manage the interfaces with the support services provided by Hampshire County Council. The FAG will continue to provide regular reports to the Hambleton Parish Council on the improvements and effectiveness of its efforts, along with pertinent articles and information for inclusion in the Hambletonian.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Jan Jarvie  
Chairman Flood Action Group