

# Job done - Sarah's Meadow Volunteers finish clearing Simmonds Brook!

On several days in January and February, 2026 in rain, wind and early Spring sunshine, volunteers waded and reached; chopped and lopped; laughed, groaned and cursed; dug, disentangled and dragged brambles, overhanging branches and rubbish (including old carpet!) from the water and banks of Simmonds Brook. Not an easy or pleasant job but a vital one – *a very big thank you to all those involved.*



The task of clearing Simmonds Brook



Milton PC chair, Graham Smith leading the way

Nearly 200 metres were cleared to give more light and enabling more life to flourish in the stream.



Part of the cleared stream



The dead hedge created round the lower pond

Branches were used to create a 'dead hedge' along the fence around the lower pond – a different habitat and a place for birds to land safely on their way to the water.

On this lower pond, we have already seen dragonflies, mayflies, whirligig beetles, pond-skaters, Mute Swan, Coot, Mallard, Little Egret and Grey Heron.

So, what will we see in Simmonds Brook this coming year? And will the Redshank, Green Sandpiper and Kingfisher be seen again?

More (less strenuous!) activities are planned in a programme covering the rest of this year – we will be advertising these shortly so that you can ‘save the dates’

**more opportunities to join the Volunteers and get involved in this exciting project**

**Contact Graham Smith ([gsmithocp@compuserve.com](mailto:gsmithocp@compuserve.com)),  
Pat Ward (07764 921464)  
or Elaine Brittan ([ebspamfree@gmail.com](mailto:ebspamfree@gmail.com))  
for further information.**