

# PENNYWORT POST - April 2021

Another update on the Yateley Pennywort.

Finally a chance to get out and check the sites, with Adrian Bicknell.

**Mill Lane.** There has been some bank side clearance around the lagoon which has improved access and observations. One small plant found on the slightly shallower bank in the part of the lagoon to the right of the causeway leading to the Blackwater. The water level was slightly above normal, but this did not prevent a very thorough wade through all the previously affected parts of the lagoon.

**Derby Green Pond.** This site was not visited.

**Wyndhams Pool.** Following last years efforts, it was very satisfying to see that re-growth has been slow and some parts are still virtually clear. It is hoped that we can continue removal this year and it looks like there may be a little funding to assist with this.

**Wystaria Lane. *!Zero plants found!*** A very encouraging visit. A full check around all the margins was carried out whilst nothing was seen in the open water. There was little surface debris, so confidence would be high that no plants were missed. Let us hope that it stays this way.

**River Blackwater.** No incidents have been reported. The short section at Mill Lane which was checked and nothing seen

Further afield:

**Basingstoke Canal** Floating Pennywort continues to be a major issue on the canal in the eastern sections around Woking and on the River Wey . An angler did report and remove a clump in January from the canal in Fleet about 500 metres east of the Reading Road Bridge. The overflow in Fleet has been checked twice this year with three strands being removed in late January. However the most recent April visit was a satisfying blank, not only just downstream of the overflow but also in the canal adjacent to it. Beds of marginals may have obscured small plants but a thorough check was possible at the overflow. There are regular checks by canal staff and volunteers, this effort being supported by our intermittent visits and a few local anglers.

And also:

**Shading** A further bucket experiment. Two buckets with growing plants were placed in an old, inactive, freezer last July. One of the buckets was removed in March and within 2 weeks green shoots had started growing from the pale remaining stems. If it was decided to attempt to use shading as a control method, it may well be that a much longer period of darkness will be required. A further bucket is still in the dark and will be removed after 12 months.



Fresh green shoots growing around  
3 weeks after emerging from the dark.  
(The duckweed is unaffected as well)

THANKS as ever to everyone who has been contributing to this effort, even if it is in the slightest way.

Martin