

# Trapped teenager is rescued from pond

A 15-year-old schoolboy was rescued after being trapped by mud in a pit at Bettisfield on Friday.

Simon Mottram, a pupil at Adams School in Wem, had started cleaning out a pond on a Bettisfield farm when his wellingtons became stuck in mud.

He was with a friend, Chris Harvey, who tried to pull him out with a rope, but eventually decided to call the fire brigade.

Fire crews freed Simon using hose reels inflated with gas to make a sling.

A firefighter went into the pool and pulled Simon free.

He was taken to Wrexham Maelor hospital as it was thought he might be suffering from hypothermia.

Simon was taken to the children's ward for a check-up but did not need treatment and was released a few hours later.

One pump from Wrexham and the emergency tender attended the scene, off the main A495 Ellesmere to Whitchurch road, together with one pump from Ellesmere.

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# Hose 'trick' saves mud stuck Simon

A half-term holiday task turned into a nightmare for a Shropshire schoolboy when he got trapped in mud trying to clean out a pond.

Simon Mottram, 15, was rescued by firefighters using hose reels inflated with gas as a makeshift life belt.

A pupil at Adams School, Wem, Simon was with a friend, Chris Harvey, at Bettisfield on the Shropshire/Clywd border.

They were helping on a local farm.

Simon had stepped into the pond with a net to start the clearing task when he realised his wellington boots had become stuck.

## Inflated

"I told Chris and he tried to get me out using a rope but my feet wouldn't move," he said.

For over two hours, Simon struggled to get free with his friend's help but eventually they admitted defeat and Chris went to the nearest house and called the fire brigade.

A fire engine and emergency tender from the Clywd Fire Service arrived and two lengths of hose were inflated.

A firefighter, using the hose to give buoyancy, went down into the pool and eventually pulled Simon to safety.

By that stage he was very cold and there were worries that he could be suffering from hypothermia.

He was taken to Wrexham Maelor Hospital for a check up but released after a few hours without treatment.

"By the time the fire brigade arrived I was really pleased to see them - they did a very good job," said Simon today.

## Mud trap race won by a hose

FIREMEN won a race against time to save a 15-year-old boy sinking in a pond of sludge - by turning their hose into a giant blow-up lifebelt.

They sealed one end, inflated it from oxygen cylinders and used it to drag Simon Mottram out of the farm pond he had been cleaning at Bettisfield, Clywd.

In another hour Simon, of Whixall, Shropshire, would have died from hypothermia, said fire chiefs.

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