

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 14, December 2010

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Chairman: John Collins Secretary: Holly Anderson

Please forward or print out and pass on to anyone else who may be interested. If you have items suitable for inclusion please let me have them as they arise. If you wish to be taken off this group email list please let me know.

We have fixed some dates for your 2011 diary, but note that the litter picks will be subject to confirmation that they fit in with the Council's schedule of management (see below):

- **Spring litter pick**, 10.30 am, Sunday **20 February 2011**
- **AGM**, 7.30 pm, Wednesday **1 June 2011**
- **Autumn litter pick**, 10.30 am, Sunday **6 November 2011**
- **Committee Meeting**, 7.30 pm, Wednesday 2 February 2011.



How does the Council manage the brook? Simon Bunn, the City Council Drainage Engineer, has informed us that clearance of the stream is undertaken on a yearly basis by contractors. His prime responsibility is to maintain the flow of the stream. Guy Belcher, the Council's Nature Conservation Projects Officer advises on the timing, the amount, and the character of the clearances. There is always a need to strike a balance between flood risk reduction, maintaining flow, and promoting biodiversity. These considerations are interdependent. For example, increased flow can reduce silt and thus modify habitat, which can increase biodiversity. Formal stream management plans are being developed throughout the City and one will be prepared for Cherry Hinton Brook.

This year's clearance. The photographs near St. Bedes Gardens show how thoroughly the contractors **cleared the brook between Sainsbury and Cherry Hinton Hall at the end of October**. Although some Friends were worried about the impact on wildlife, flotillas of ducks still patrol and sightings of kingfishers have increased severalfold.



In years gone by, contractors threw rubbish from the channel on to the banks and left it there. Now contractors are required to separate organic mater from the litter and rubbish, and take away the latter. Inevitably, evidence of past malpractice becomes exposed. In November, one member of the Committee nobly carried out a mopping-up exercise along Snakey Path, including, for example the removal of rubbish entangled in remaining vegetation and trapped by many years of soil movement. FCHB will continue to monitor the annual clearances and work with Simon Bunn to make sure that there is a full clear-up afterwards.

Coldhams Common litter pick, 6 November 2010. Keith Jordan of Abbey Action reported that 26 people turned out and collected 'a mammoth amount of litter'. The rubbish was sorted into recyclable and non-recyclable, and over half was the former, mainly plastic bottles.

Extension of proposed Romsey Conservation Area to include Burnside? An appraisal has been undertaken to assess the appropriateness of Romsey as a Conservation Area (or alternatively the extension of the current Mill Road Conservation Area to include Romsey). However, the Romsey proposal goes only as far as Perne Road and does not include Burnside. John Preston of the City Council's Historic and Environment Team explained the current proposals at a public meeting on 2 December 2010. Also, Allan Brigham, the local historian, gave a talk about the history and buildings of Romsey. He made a strong case for the extension of the proposed area to include Burnside. Those interested in the status of Burnside should make their comments to susan.smith@cambridge.gov.uk (Environment and Planning, PO Box 700, Cambridge CB1 0JH) by 17 January.

See <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/content/consultations/mill-road-and-st-matthews-and-romsey-conservation-area-appraisals-consultation.en>