

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 21, November 2011

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.



Litter Pick 6 November 2011

It warmed the cockles of the heart to see 34 volunteers straining at the leash. The sighting of a kingfisher, unfazed by high-viz jackets, was the icing on the cake. This is not to have mentioned the transformation in the appearance of the Brook all the way from Coldhams Lane to Burnside. Even enjoyment was had. One of the more balletic poses to reach high-level litter can be seen to the left. Even drama unfolded. A mud-trapped wader was more easily rescued than his waders (above, right). There is probably no-one still buried.

We were particularly grateful for the participation of 4 Sainsbury volunteers under the leadership of Keith Holmes, Deputy Manager, who joined us on one of their days off. This augurs well for our future co-operation with the

store and we are delighted to be working with them to make the Brook a pleasant environment for us all. A large number of sacks of rubbish and litter were collected. Although it is a minority of Sainsbury's customers who are responsible for dropping litter, not Sainsbury's, the store is left holding the baby. Our grateful thanks, also, again, to Andrew Walters of Keep Britain Tidy for his practical help. For future excitement make a note in your diary of the **next litter picks on 26 February and 4 November 2012.**

Drought and low flow Though no specific ecological damage to the Cherry Hinton Brook has been reported, its low flow is demonstrated by the exposure of mud in the photograph, above right. Moorhens tend, now, to walk in the water on the stream bed rather than swim. The reduced discharge of the Hobson's Conduit has been widely reported in the local press. Following the drought of 1976 rare freshwater invertebrates were lost from the Nine Wells Nature Reserve, the source of that stream near Addenbrooke's. Along this same spring line of the Lower Chalk aquifer also rises the Wilbraham River whose drying out is being monitored by our sister organisation, the Wilbraham River Protection Society whose next AGM is on 24 November at Great Wilbraham Primary School. They put pressure on the Environment Agency to pump water from a borehole 5 kms away to try (unsuccessfully) to achieve perennial flow. They are now hoping to return the stream to its original course, away from which it was once diverted to power Hawk Mill. This original course is at a lower altitude and should suffer less from low groundwater levels.

David Brooks 8 November 2011