

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 28, 9 Oct. 2012

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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 let me know.



The Lakes Throughout the summer the easternmost of the lakes adjacent to Snakey Path was once again a strong magnet for a variety of people for the purpose of swimming and partying. Visitors could be seen carrying armfuls of cans and bottles towards their goal.

This was unfortunately accompanied by anti-social behaviour as in past years. The photos show the litter that is accumulating in and around the lake, indicating that those using it are not particularly concerned about the landscape or wildlife value of the area. Since a new fence has made access more difficult at the Spinney School, visitors use their fly-tipping skills to build bridges or rafts across the brook, resulting in theft from and damage in the adjacent Daws Lane allotments. This access point over the brook is then often left bestrewn with discarded towels, socks, footwear, and miscellaneous clothing.

So far the only constraints being put on these activities is, as far as we know, some visitors being ticketed for parking on the pavement in Sidney Farm Road. Given the growing interest in opening up the lakes to the public, FCHB is keen to make sure that due consideration is given to these issues. We think that open access might indeed reduce such anti-social behaviour provided the appropriate measures are put in place.

For further information on FCHB's views on the lakes, please visit the website or contact us for a copy of our briefing. (Sue Wells)



Chalk stream restoration project Guy Belcher, the Cambridge City Council Nature Conservation Officer has available a small grant from the Environment Agency to undertake a programme of scrub and tree work along the Brook between Daws Lane and Sainsbury's, designed to offer the greatest benefits to biodiversity.

The photograph shows Guy (pointing) on an overgrown and overshadowed Snakey Path, leading a reconnaissance to identify vegetation suitable for trimming, removal, coppicing, and pollarding, which would both retain the interest for bird and other species and also allow increased light to the watercourse in order to increase the variety of plant species.

This is likely to make a significant visual impact and will be completed before the end of the winter, after

the consultation process, and after a schedule of works has been sent out to local groups, notices posted along the route, and individual trees, scrub and groups of saplings marked. Also in the photograph (taken on 1 October) are three committee members and (with his face obscured by Guy's arm) Iain Webb who is the Wildlife Trust Cambridge City Greenways Project Officer. (David Brooks)

Next litter pick Sunday 4 November, 10.30am. Meet in Burnside.