

## Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 32, May 2013

[www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk)

*Please forward or print out and pass on to anyone else who may be interested.*

**\*\*\* AGM:** The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June\*\*\*

**Bold voles:** Water voles have been seen several times during the last few weeks along the stretch of the Brook near St Bede's Gardens. My photo shows one which was nibbling vegetation and grooming itself on the far bank around 8pm. Guy Belcher and Holly Anderson both got good views of one in a similar location. Do let us know if you see any. Their presence indicates that the habitat is good quality, supporting our view that the Brook and the adjacent areas, including the lakes, are important for wildlife. *(Monica Frisch)*



**Wildlife along the brook:** Now warmer weather has arrived the cow parsley (and the nettles) are shooting up, the sedge is in flower and the migrant birds are in full song. Suddenly it's spring! The only disadvantage being that the leaves on the trees make it harder to spot the birds amongst the foliage, so listening for their song is the best way to locate them. Blackcaps have a flute-like song similar to a blackbird and, if you spot them, have a black cap on their heads if male, a russet cap if female. Willow warblers and chiff-chaffs are the original "LBJs" (little brown jobs) both difficult to see and identify other than by song: the willow warbler has a beautiful soulful descending trill whilst the chiff-chaff mimics its name "chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff". Sedge warblers too can be heard in the reeds in the chalk pits (how I wish I could walk in there to see them) as they spurt out a crescendo of notes in a manic way. All these warblers are tiny and have found their way back here from sub-Saharan Africa. It is such a relief to hear they have returned safely to spend another summer with us. *(Monica Frisch & Holly Anderson)*

**Along the Tins:** Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook sees the open areas in the vicinity of the Brook as a key part of the Green Corridor that runs from Cherry Hinton to the Cam. We were therefore hugely disappointed by the sudden clearance of a large tract of bushy, green land, belonging to the Anderson Group, between the Tins Path and the railway line on the other side of the lakes. We hoped that future development here would recognise the importance of the land to wildlife. The Wildlife Trust had similar views, voiced in several recent publications. Our views were published in a letter to the *Cambridge News* (see our website). We will be following this issue and pressing for any habitat restoration that might be possible. *(Sue Wells)*

Land north of the Tins path during (left) and after (below) clearance *(photos: David Brooks)*



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