

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook

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www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Since Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook was formed in 2009 by a small group of people concerned about litter in the Brook, our activities have expanded considerably.

Our aims are:

- Maintaining the appearance of the Brook, for example, by removing litter;
- Raising public awareness about the importance of the Brook for wildlife;
- Improving the Brook as a home for wildlife;
- Observing and monitoring the wildlife of the Brook and surrounding area;
- Working with other organisations with similar interests.

In addition to organising litter picks twice a year, we are helping the City Council with restoration and other Brook improvements (including starting a project with new grant funding in October – see below), building up records of plants and animals seen along the Brook, and actively engaging in discussions about development and other proposals that might affect the Brook.

We invite you to join Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook – it only costs £2 a year – and to take part in our activities. As you can see from the list of events in this newsletter there is lots going on. We also welcome people to help in other ways: helping at stalls at events – the next one is likely to be Mill Road Winter Fair on Saturday 5th December – publicising our activities, taking photographs, monitoring wildlife... whatever your skills we can probably use them, so do get in touch.

Next litterpick: Sunday 27th September



This is World Rivers Day and Rivercare are encouraging the local groups they support, including us, to hold events. RiverCare encourages local communities to take pride in their environment and come together to maintain and enhance this for future generations and have provided us with lots of equipment. So we can provide our volunteers with heavy-duty gloves, to protect hands, devices for fishing litter out of the Brook, sacks to put the litter in and even scales so we can weigh how much litter we have collected.

If you want to help, just come along. Meet at 10:30 a.m. outside the dentist's at 97-99 Burnside.

Guided walks of the lakes

In the draft Cambridge City Local Plan, the Council is proposing that the lakes adjacent to the Brook, which were formerly cement pits, could be opened to the public as an Urban Country Park.

The proposal is at a very early stage and, to help the discussions, the Council is organising guided walks for interested members of the public. These will allow people to see first hand the amount of space available, the wildlife interest of the area, and any health and safety issues. The dates for the walks are:



- ◆ Thursday 24th September 14.30 - 16.00
- ◆ Tuesday 29th September 12.30 – 14.00 *and* 14:30 – 16:00
- ◆ Saturday 3rd October 10.30 - 12.00

If you want to attend please contact Parks@cambridge.gov.uk or call 01223 458520 to book, as spaces are limited to 25 people per tour.

It is anticipated that the proposals for the lakes will be on the agenda at the public meetings of the South Area Committee on 5th October and the East Area Committee meeting on 29th October.

Scrub clearance at Giant's Grave: 10th October

The first activity for our new project to help improve the flow and health of the Brook, funded by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, is to clear some of the scrub and vegetation at Giant's Grave in Cherry Hinton. This is the pond, fed by springs, which is the source of the Brook, by the corner of Cherry Hinton Road and Cherry Hinton High Street, opposite the Robin Hood Pub. It looks like a grassy verge but in fact it goes down steeply to the pond area.



Guy Belcher, Wildlife Officer with Cambridge City Council will be there to advise on the work to be done and will bring the necessary tools. All you need to do is come appropriately dressed and be there at 10.00 o'clock. Come for as long as you like.

It would help if we could know how many people are coming as Sainsburys have agreed to provide refreshments. It is our first work party for this project so let's show the funders we mean business and I hope a lot of you will be there and I am sure we will have a good time!

More flow deflectors to install

As part of the Biodiversity Partnership project, we will be installing six more flow deflectors (made of logs and gravel) as well as a gravel riffle in the brook which narrow the channel and improve the flow which ultimately improves the habitat for the wildlife and spawning fish. We will be re-grading the bank in some areas to create a shelf for vegetation and also do further scrub clearance to increase light levels and reduce silt input from leaf fall. We will be helped in this not only by the City Council but by volunteers from Cambridge Water, Natural England and other local groups.



We hope to have working parties on the following dates in November, followed by a couple more early in 2016. Please contact us if you want to get involved so we can provide detailed information on where and when to meet.

- ◆ Wednesday 4th November
- ◆ Friday 6th November
- ◆ Sunday 8th November
- ◆ Tuesday 10th November
- ◆ Saturday 28th November



JOIN US! See our website www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk for our aims and activities.

To be taken off this email list, please email membership@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Monica Frisch (editor@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk) 17th September 2015