

**Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook**  
**Occasional Titbits, No. 48, May 2016**  
[www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk)

**AGM: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 pm in St Martin's Church Hall, Suez Road, Cambridge CB1 3QD.

**Provisional agenda**

**FCHB Business**

- Minutes of AGM 2015 and Matters arising
- Chairman's Report – Sue Wells
- Treasurer's Report – Monica Frisch
- Election of officers and committee members
- Any Other Business
- Date of next AGM



*The Brook near Sainsbury's in April 2016*

Victoria Wilkinson, Pollution Manager at Anglian Water, will talk about managing water quality in Cambridge and how the public can take part.

Callum Nightingale, from University Technical College, will talk about the "Water Challenge Project" that he and other students undertook to look at Cherry Hinton Brook and potential pollution issues.

We will end with a general discussion about future plans and activities, along with refreshments.

Proposals for new committee members should reach Holly Anderson, 75 Burnside, [ha206@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ha206@cam.ac.uk) before 6 June. The agreement of those proposed should be sought before their names are submitted.

**Spring litter picks**



On our regular litter pick on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March, volunteers collected an impressive 83.51 kg of litter from along the Brook from Burnside to Sainsburys' car park. A big thank you also to everyone who came to the extra litter pick on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. We cleaned up the short stretch of Brook that borders the railway line opposite the Sainsbury petrol station between Coldhams Lane and Barnwell Road which clearly had many years' worth of litter there - although someone had already cleaned up a lot of the surface litter since we looked at it 3 weeks earlier (many thanks to whoever did this).

We finished the job by collecting a whopping 125 kg of litter from the area and it now looks much better. We saw a nesting duck there so I think we did this just in the nick of time. I'm sure the wildlife will be much happier there now!

*Nicola Fawcett*

**Brook restoration update**

Work to restore the Brook, funded by the City Council and the Cambridge and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, is almost complete and we will be monitoring the effects over the coming year. Members of the committee are taking photos from fixed points once a month, so we can see how things change.



Given the large accumulation of silt in the Brook, the Sustainable Drainage Engineer and the City Biodiversity Officer arranged to remove some mechanically in March. Some 50 tonnes were removed from the stretch between the car parks at Sainsburys, and at the downstream end of Burnside where the Tins cycle bridge and the almost-adjacent concrete bridge create a potential flood hazard. *Sue Wells*

## The Conversazione

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook will be having a display about our activities, particularly the Brook restoration work, at the Cambridge Natural History Society Annual Conversazione, a free public exhibition all about the natural world. It is held in the Department of Zoology, just off Pembroke Street, and will be open from 1 till 6 pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June and 10 am till 5 pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. There is no charge for admission so do come along. Please let us know if you would be able to give us a hand. It is always good if there is someone with the display who can engage people in conversation and perhaps even persuade them to join. *Monica Frisch*

## Wildlife reports

While it may not feel like spring, the days are getting longer, if not warmer, and the flora and fauna are responding. A clump of frogspawn (right) was spotted in the Brook on 19<sup>th</sup> March and a week later it was reported that frogs were crossing Burnside in small numbers. The large numbers of frogs that used to cross Burnside have not been seen for some time. It is possible that the lowered kerbs only have an impact when there are dozens of frogs, as a number will come across the lower sections by chance. No newts were reported this year.

*Photo: Jenny Sutton*



We have had a few reports of sightings of water voles but not many, possibly as the cool weather has kept our observers indoors (and probably the voles in their holes). But do keep your eyes open and email [wildlife@cherryhintonbrook.co.uk](mailto:wildlife@cherryhintonbrook.co.uk) if you see any. It helps us gauge the health of the population.

The first swifts and swallows have been sighted flying over the lakes and from the end of March chiff-chaffs, blackcaps and other summer migrants have been seen and heard in the hedgerows along the Brook. Look out too for the Little Egret, a small white heron, which has been seen from time to time recently, the kingfishers and flotillas of ducklings. *Monica Frisch & Holly Anderson*

## Talk at Edward House

In March Holly gave a talk about the Brook to the ladies at Edward House Residential Home in Cambridge. The home has 16 residents, many of whom grew up or lived in Cambridge before needing care. Several knew the Brook and the lakes and they all very much enjoyed seeing photos of the wildlife and the area. Knowing how important it is to encourage elderly people (especially if house-bound) to talk about their lives, the talk provided an opportunity for them to share memories of living in Cambridge. We may offer other local care homes a similar talk in the future. *Holly Anderson*

## In the news

We are pleased to report that we are getting more publicity for our activities. We have given several talks this year, to Cambridge Natural History Society, students at the University Technical College, and were interviewed on Radio Cambridgeshire. There were also pieces about us in *Cambridge Matters*, *Mill Road Newsletter* and the Cherry Hinton Residents' Association newsletter.

**JOIN US!** See our website [www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk) for our aims and activities.

To be taken off this email list, please email [membership@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](mailto:membership@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk)

**Monica Frisch** ([editor@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](mailto:editor@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk)) 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016