

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook 2019 AGM

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Cherry Hinton Library, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge
7.00 pm, Monday 1 July, 2019

Minutes

Present.

Committee: Sue Wells (chair), Monica Frisch (treasurer), Holly Anderson (secretary), Jón Fairbairn (webmaster), Stuart Newbold, Shona Douglas, David Brooks, Lucy Rhymer and Anne Rout.

Members: Veronica Greenwood, Ken Harries, Peter Fenton, John McGrath, Ruth Inimey-Cook, John Oakes, Chris Whellams, Jo Dennis, Peggy Denham, Robert Billingham

New members: Nick Barraud, Lesley Davies, Jeff Davies, Klaudia Walter, Lorenz Wernisch, Richard Cushing

Guests: Ann Husband, Karen Oldham

Speakers: Dr Steve Boreham (Cambridge University Department of Geography) and Andrew Chapman (Environment Agency)

7.00 pm Welcome – Sue Wells welcomed everybody

7.05 pm **Cherry Hinton Brook: A view from the Giant's Grave.** – talk by Steve Boreham, Cambridge University Department of Geography. A copy of this talk can be read online on our website.

Steve gave a most interesting and useful talk about “our” brook and drew on his research and knowledge of other watercourses within the city, including Nine Wells. There are concerns about the amount of leakage along Cherry Hinton Brook (mainly into the lakes) that affects flow, and the impact any new housing/ building developments will have on water usage. He advised us to use knowledge of on going monitoring of water quality and biodiversity to help present a long term strategy and encourage public engagement so that our brook is better supported. It is the only spring fed source in the City that is currently not supported. We need to 1) know what we have got, 2) know what we would like to achieve and 3) know how best it can be sustained.

7.45 pm General discussion on water quality, flow and levels in Cherry Hinton Brook.

Both Steve and Andrew were on hand to answer questions from the floor.

There was concern about the amount of water being taken from the Brook but it appears that it is within people's rights to do this. More water is lost by leakage into the lakes. However groups with access to the water may need to look at their regulations to see if these are adequate in ensuring responsible use. In addition, shady dark areas along the brook have an affect on plant and animal life and need attention.

8.15 pm FCHB business

- Minutes of AGM 2018 and Matters arising - approved
- Chairman's Report - enclosed
- Treasurer's Report - enclosed
- Election of officers and committee members

At the 2019 AGM, the following are willing to present themselves for re-election:

Sue Wells (chair), Monica Frisch (treasurer), Holly Anderson (secretary), Jón Fairbairn (webmaster), Nicola Fawcett (membership secretary), Stuart Newbold, Emmy Smart (1), Shona Douglas, David Brooks, Berry Mulligan and Anne Rout.

Lucy Rhymer was co-opted onto the committee and is willing to present herself for election onto the committee for 2019.

Rebecca Jones and Jenny Sutton have stepped down from the committee and are warmly thanked for all their hard work.

To note:

- (1) Emmy Smart will be on sabbatical from the committee for the next year as she will be in the USA.

Holly Anderson proposed that these changes be accepted. Veronica Greenwood seconded and these were passed unanimously

- AOB
 - Pebble fund and publicity – posters to discourage litter will be designed and placed at Sainsburys with support from Rivercare (Lynsey Stafford)
 - Lynsey will also be in touch about an initiative between Sainsburys and KBT to see if this liaison can help with a solution to the ongoing litter problem.
 - Results of water monitoring needed to help draw up an inventory.
 - Need to request dark area along Snakey Path and vegetation by Blacklands Allotments to be attended to so that health of the Brook can be improved at these sites.
- Date of next meeting – to be decided by the committee at the next meeting

8.45 Refreshments

The formal business closed at 8.45 for refreshments and discussion.

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook AGM 1st July 2019

Chair's Report

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook (FCHB) have had another busy year. Activities that we have undertaken since the AGM in June 2018 are described below, under the headings of our objectives. We would like to say a big thank-you to all our supporters:

- The many volunteers who took part in the brook clean-ups and work parties;
- RiverCare, which provides the equipment, insurance and moral support for the clean-ups;
- Sainsbury's Coldham's Lane store;
- Cam Valley Forum
- Cambridge City Council, particularly Guy Belcher;
- Last but not least, FCHB's very active committee!

1. Maintaining the attractive appearance of the brook

Litter picks: We held two FCHB events: World Rivers Day 23rd Sept 2018; and the Spring clean up on 24th March 2019 which coincided with the Great British Spring Clean. A special thanks to Nicola Fawcett for leading these events and to RiverCare for equipment, insurance, risk assessment, and general advice. RiverCare provided First Aid training for the clean-up groups that it supports, and two members of the FCHB Committee participated.

Graffiti: The FCHB interpretation boards were defaced early in 2019. Since the boards had become scratched over time, the Council replaced the Perspex covers very quickly. A second incident involved some unpleasant words which had been painted on Snaky Path and adjacent areas overnight. These were equally quickly removed by the Council. We are very grateful for the prompt action in both cases.

2. Raising public awareness about the importance of the brook for wildlife

Newsletter: Three issues were produced this year (numbers 58-60). Many thanks to Monica Frisch, newsletter editor, for seeing us through to the milestone of the 60th newsletter, and also to Holly Anderson for the regular "nature notes", which now provide us with description of the wildlife over the seasons for several years.

Events – we took part in, and distributed information at:

- Cherry Hinton Festival – 22nd September 2018; another damp day and without a gazebo this time we got fairly wet. Nevertheless, there was plenty of interest in our activities.
- Cambridge Natural History Society NatHistFest – 100th Conversazione, April 2019

Pebble Fund – We have continued to distribute the leaflet produced through the Pebble Fund grant. In addition, Cambridge Water has helped with publicity. They produced a short video in which we explain the restoration undertaken with the Pebble Fund grant, and have provided a description of our work on their website. www.cambridge-water.co.uk/environment/biodiversity/pebble-fund/cherry-hinton-brook

Website, Facebook and Twitter: thanks to Jon Fairbairn, Rebecca Jones and Berry Mulligan for maintaining these. And thanks for Jon and Monica for helping us through the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations.

3. Improving the brook as a home for wildlife

Having completed the restoration work with the Pebble Fund, we have been advised to wait and see the impact of the work that has been undertaken so far before undertaking further activities.

There has been much concern about the low level of the brook this year, with questions raised about the fact that some Blacklands allotment holders extract water by pump. The pumping is not currently contravening any regulations. However, many people would prefer the allotment holders to use other sources of water, and we are in discussion with the Secretary of the group. The Chair of Cam Valley Forum, Steven Tompkins, as well as Steve Boreham, University of Cambridge Geography Dept, have provided us with further information about the wider abstraction and water flow issues affecting Cambridge. We will use this to create a page on our website about water flow, level and quality.

4. Monitoring the wildlife of the brook

Water voles: Peter Pilbeam, of the Cambridgeshire Mammal Society, kindly surveyed the brook on 11th May 2019, and took a group of members with him to show them how to look for voles. The population is still healthy and Monica continues to record sightings of voles that are submitted.

Other wildlife: this has continued to be abundant. Eels have now been confirmed in the brook itself. Sadly, one kingfisher was found dead during the November 2018 litter pick – wildlife is certainly having to cope with some weather extremes at the moment.

Fixed point photographs: Nicola and Holly have taken monthly photos at specific locations along the brook to record the general changes in vegetation and appearance of the brook.

Riverfly monitoring: This is continuing thanks to Vic Smith of the City Council - monthly monitoring at a location in the brook near Sainsbury's.

5. Liaison and co-operation with other organisations

RiverCare – Lynsey Stafford is the new RiverCare officer for Cambridge and has played a very active role in supporting FCHB. We are most grateful for her help and encouragement.

Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall: we promote each other's events through our various communications outlets and several members attend events organised by both groups.

Cambridge City Council: CCC has commissioned CGM Ltd to undertake removal of the invasive non-native *Crassula helmsii* weed from the lake and watercourse at Cherry Hinton Hall, as a follow up to the restoration work undertaken. We will continue to provide updates through the newsletter.

The Lakes: The Anderson Group is intending to submit a planning application for the area some time in 2019. JTP, an urban design and architecture company, drew up plans for the country park and lakes, and FCHB participated in the Community Planning Weekend (23 - 27 November 2018) which was held as part of this process.

Cherry Hinton History Society – FCHB helped to check the text of the new sign board erected at Giant's Grave to explain the history of the brook and its source.

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook

Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2019

Our current balance is £1,310.74 with £1,180.59 in our account with the Co-operative Bank and the balance of £130.15 in cash.

This year, we received £65.90 in membership and donations which is sufficient to cover general running costs. Administrative costs, such as printing, postage and stationery are low because most of our administration, including distribution of the newsletter, *Titbits*, is done by email. Furthermore, most members of the committee do not claim expenses. We thank them for not only donating their time but also waiving expense claims.

Our main expense was the final payment for the work we undertook under the Pebble Fund grant (£350 for technical services provided by the Wild Trout Trust). This grant was received in the financial year 2016-2017, which accounts for the apparent annual deficit for financial year 2018-2019. We still have £281.29 of this grant unspent and, following discussion with staff of the Pebble Fund, we will be using this to develop further publicity to reduce littering in the Sainsbury's area of the brook.

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Income			
Membership & donations	£65.90	£64.60	£117.15
Wildlife Trust BCN		£2,271.60	
Pebble Fund			£1,700.00
Sainsbury's			£500.00
Sustrans			£50.00
Total income	£65.90	£2,336.20	£2,367.15

Expenditure			
Brook works funded by Wildlife Trust		£2,271.60	
Brook works funded by Pebble Fund	£350.00	£864.00	
Mill Road Fair/Cherry Hinton Festival		£9.00	£15.00
Meeting room hire	£36.00	£36.00	£25.00
Printing leaflets			£169.71
Stationery			£11.00
Website	£7.20		£13.50
Bank charges			£6.00
Total expenditure	£393.20	£3,180.60	£240.21
Surplus (loss) on year	-£327.30	-£844.40	£2,126.94

Bank balance	£1,180.59	£1,573.79	£2,473.79
Cash balance	£130.15	£64.25	£8.65
Total funds	£1,310.74	£1,638.04	£2,482.44

Monica Frisch, Treasurer, 30th June 2019