

# Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 12, June 2010

Chairman: John Collins      Secretary: Holly Anderson

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 please let me know.

**1. At the AGM on 1 June our Chairman reported on a first busy year.** Activities ranged from trying to pin down Sainsbury to keeping an eye on the dismantled St. Bedes Playground, not to mention a great deal of litter picking. The recent receipt of a £1,000 Sustainable City Grant 'for Environmental Projects in Cambridge' was announced. This was awarded for our **project to erect interpretation boards** at various suitable points along the Brook, from Dawes Lane to Sainsbury. This means we can now commission the design of the information on the board with the further much appreciated assistance of Guy Belcher, Nature Conservation Projects Officer, City of Cambridge. Monica Frisch has already worked on the content in the form of a preliminary design.



## **2. Right of Way through Sainsbury has been opened**

As the result of pressures we brought to bear, the public footpath on the bank of the Brook has been re-opened. Peter Duthie, Countryside Access Projects Manager of the Rights of Way and Access Team at Shire Hall responded to our overtures by making representations to Sainsbury about the broken fence, overgrown vegetation, and the obstructions



preventing access. Thereafter in recent weeks, unbeknown to Mr. Duthie and the Friends of CHB, the vegetation (particularly ivy) was cut back, the fence repaired, and the obstructions (including a padlock) have been removed. Furthermore, at one point between Coldhams Lane and the first Sainsbury bridge the bank of the Brook has been built up with piles and boards reducing the gradient of the path towards the water. Elsewhere there is a length of path which slopes somewhat towards the Brook, but the whole length of the path can now be walked quite safely. We assume that all this work was carried out by Sainsbury, but they keep their cards close to their corporate chest.

**3. Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall** discussed the proposed master plan for the **development of the former propagation area** at their meeting on 19 May. This ambitious plan includes a 'performance' area with a stage, a café

and public conveniences. Proposals extend to the Brook with a 'bound gravel' promenade, pond dipping platform, a new bridge, new seating, clearing of ponds and improving woodland. The intention is to 'open up' the Brook and improve water clarity. Also at the meeting a speaker proposed that the Hall grounds would be suitable for a **City Farm**. This idea was well received (with some reservations) but there were doubts that this could be integrated into the above plan, and if adopted would have to replace it.

**4. Saturday 3 July, 10am to 2pm, open day for local residents to find out about the Urban Adventure Play project.** Within the Cherry Hinton Hall Cambridge City Wildlife Site there is a 'dedicated space' where children are encouraged to 'explore nature', and 'gain skills' in 'den building, pond dipping, camp-fire cooking, and woodcraft activities'. Further information at <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/chypps>