

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 31, April 2013

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

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

Giants Grave: As first recommended in Titbits 18 in November 2011, five large conifers have been removed (three of them from the foreground in the photo) by the City Council in order that more light can improve the hollow as a habitat and as a local beauty spot. The Council's policy is to replace such trees with the same number of native species. Fortunately this does not mean, necessarily, in the same place, as that would defeat the object. *(David Brooks; photo: Stuart Newbold)*



Cherry Hinton Brook spring clean: Many thanks to all those who helped out with what, we think, was our 8th brook clean up! A bumper group turned up on Sunday 4 March, ranging from small to large, and with plenty of new faces. We collected some 20 bags worth of rubbish, with almost enough bicycle parts to build a new bike, and the inevitable shopping trolley. Sainsbury's once again kindly provided tea, coffee and biscuits to fortify the workers. However we were disappointed to find that a large part of the rubbish originated from sources related to the store itself: customers, delivery lorries, overflowing rubbish bins and the staff, who take their breaks and have a smoke next to the stream. FCHB will be writing to Sainsbury's about this. The wildlife gives every appearance of appreciating our efforts, with a pair of mallard continuing to paddle about as we went up and down the stream.



RiverCare, a Keep Britain Tidy project, provided the equipment and the City Council efficiently removed the results once we had finished.

The next clean-up will be in November. For further information contact David Brooks, tel. 01223 244528; davidbrooks@btinternet.com or visit our website. *(Sue Wells; photos: Yair Doza).*



Bird life along the brook: In spite of the bitter weather, the resident birds have begun to look for mates and defend territories. Robins, dunnocks (sometimes called hedge sparrows) and thrushes are all singing in the hedges and trees. The greater spotted woodpecker is drumming loudly in the willows along Burnside; we had a pair nest in the same stretch of trees two years ago so we may be lucky again this year. A pair of mallard can be seen swimming the length of the brook from Sainsbury's to Snakey Path. Each year we get at least one pair to breed on the brook, although unfortunately the ducklings are usually predated by rats. In March a group of eight noisy squabbling jays was seen in the willows close to the Tins at Burnside. These beautifully coloured members of the crow family (being pink, blue, black and white) form large groups at this time of year, mainly unmated birds seeking partners or a number of hopeful males courting one female. Their raucous behaviour is typical of teenagers with surging hormones! *(Holly Anderson)*

Photos of the brook: We are adding a Gallery Page to the website to show pictures of our activities and we'd like to add members' photos of the Brook. If you have any that you would like to share, we'd love to see them. Email them to webmaster@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk. Of course, for publication, the webmaster's decision is final. *(Jane Phillips)*

Monica Frisch (editor@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk) 2nd April 2013

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