

# Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 13, September 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.*

**Our website** is up and running: [www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk) Thanks to those members responsible. Take a look. Tell your friends! If appropriate please arrange, within your power, any links to us from other suitable websites. The plant shown on the website is purple toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), a plant of garden origin which seems quite at home along the Brook. Cambridge Natural History Society recorded it and about 150 other species when they surveyed the area in 2009. These included at least three varieties of blackberry, some more sweet and succulent than others.

**Amongst the rubbish** pulled daily out of the Brook along Snakey Path, on 19 August there was a drunken youth. During the daylight hours the rubbish removed included a car wheel and tyre. The other three wheels with tyres had been dumped on the path itself near St. Bede's Crescent. At 11pm a passer-by helped the half-naked, stupefied drunkard claw his way out of the water, again near St. Bede's Crescent. He spoke incoherently of a lost phone, a lost friend, being mugged, and 'A' level results. The calling of two police officers and a helicopter contributed to the annual cost of drunkenness, to us taxpayers, of billions of pounds.

**Extraction of water from the Brook.** Several people have voiced concern that local residents and allotment holders have been observed pumping water from the Brook for their personal use. Andrew Chapman, the Environment Agency's Senior Environment Planning Officer (Water Resources), informs us that a licence for



water abstraction is not necessary if the individual is taking less than 20 cubic metres (20,000 litres) per day, providing there is a right of access to the supply. This seems to be a generous allowance and a boon to gardeners, but, given the size of the Brook, it is just as well that only a few have caught on to this idea.

### **Two new litter bins in Dawes Lane near the Brook.**

The photograph shows one of the bins, both of which were wrenched over, together with their concrete bases, within 24 hours of installation. When the photograph was taken there was some litter in the bin, almost as much as was lying on the ground

in the immediate vicinity. Now graffiti have been added. Elsewhere, there is an appalling amount of litter and rubbish in and around Sainsbury.

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> open day for local residents to find out about the Cherry Hinton Hall Urban Adventure Play project.** A trickle of visitors duly made their long way through the bushes, shrubbery, and the green metal gate (near the ponds) to observe youngsters 'exploring nature', and 'gaining skills' in 'den building, pond dipping, camp-fire cooking, and woodcraft activities'. The project was inevitably presented by the guide as having a low environmental impact. Further information at <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/chypps>

**Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall** [www.cherryhintonhall.com](http://www.cherryhintonhall.com) held their most recent public meeting on 15 September. Discussion was wide-ranging, verging on the passionate. Topics most relevant to the Brook were the feeding of ducks in the pond and the intention of the City Council to spend more than £2000 on opening up the flowing water by removing trees and vegetation from the banks and any obstructions from the channel. The group has distributed some 4000 copies of their attractive new leaflet to homes around the Hall. More than 70 new members were attracted at a stall in the Folk Festival this summer.