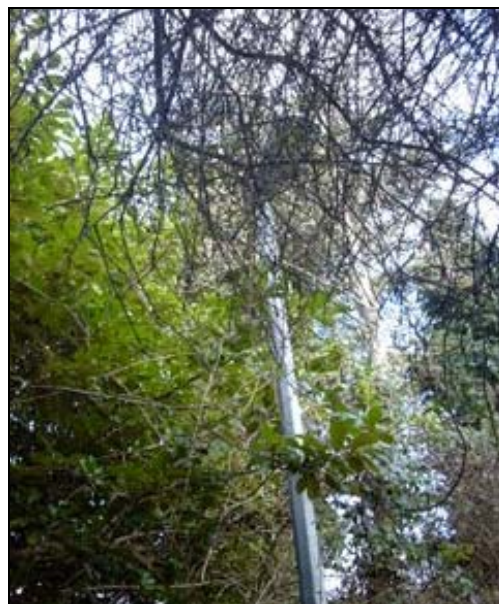


# Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 22, January 2012

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Chairman: John Collins

*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 let me know.*



**1. The visual and ecological improvement of Daws Lane.** It has been suggested that much could be done to improve Daws Lane which is owned by Peterhouse and overseen by Bidwells. The entrance to the allotments over the brick bridge is on the right-hand side of the left-hand photograph. One idea for this part of Daws Lane is to create a more open grassy glade by removing the bramble patches to the left of the litter bin and above the centre of the photograph, immediately beyond the tarmac footpath running from side to side across the photograph.



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Unfortunately, some fear that the removal of the first patch might make the houses further to the left of the photograph more vulnerable to vandalism and trespass. The removal of the second larger patch might make the channel of the Brook immediately upstream from the brick bridge less attractive to the water rail (see photograph) which has been spotted there, pottering along the water's edge. Apparently sheep used to be dipped in the Brook at this very spot.

Although some are horrified at the thought of the removal of any vegetation at all, the need to clear branches away from the street lights is likely to be less controversial. The right-hand photograph (above) shows Daws Lane this month. Consider how little artificial light reaches pedestrians and cyclists on a summer's night. Frankly it is dangerous. Like many cyclists, many pedestrians do not wear high vis jackets. **What do Friends think about Daws Lane? Please let us know.**

**2. Friends of the Brook** will not be surprised to learn that the £500 information board at St. Bede's Crescent has been wantonly damaged; nor that the front and rear number plates of a car, together with a suspicious-looking pair of gloves, were dumped less than 10 yards away; nor, indeed, that a circular red life belt which had been installed, in good faith, beside the lakes, was thrown into the Brook nearby. This is not to mention the sundry items of furniture, supermarket trolleys, and pushchairs which continue to find their way, unseen, into the Brook, nor the accumulation of smaller items of litter, hour by hour. One or two Friends are always dealing with these particular kinds of blemishes on a daily basis which is why Snakey Path, for example, generally looks good, but the job is never-ending. The Sainsbury's stretch looks as bad now as it was before our November litter pick.

**3. The next Litter Pick is on 26 February.** Meet outside 95 Burnside at 10.30am. The **2012 AGM is on 7 June.** We are grateful to **Iain Webb**, the **Wildlife Trusts's Cambridge City Greenways Officer**, for agreeing to guide a **Walk along the Brook** for us at **6.30pm on 23 April.**

David Brooks 29 January 2012