

# Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 25, May 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.*



**The rain** Given its source in a Chalk spring, the Brook responded to the recent rains at a rate, and to a degree, which was very surprising. Before the rain, the water near the Daws Lane allotments was only half the width shown in the recent photograph (taken by Zoe Harris).

The outlook remains gloomy however. The **Cam Valley Forum** reported earlier this year that *the Environment Agency was unable to pump water to support to the Mel (to dilute the effluent from the sewage works) as both its pumps were broken, but did manage to keep the Shep and Guilden Brook flowing. As the year progressed the problem of low river flows throughout the Cam catchment and worries about future water resources came to dominate our agenda. We were pleased, therefore, to get a chance to comment on Cambridge Water Company's draft drought plan which, we argued, failed to give sufficient weight to the environmental implications of increasing demands for water.*

**A potential Chalk stream?** Following hard on the heels of Titbits 24 the FCHB have been able to give strong material support to the **Wildlife Trust**, in its application to the Environmental Agency's Catchment Restoration Fund for England, for their '**Cambridge brooks and wetlands enhancement project**'. If the bid were successful then, as a part of this project, the Cherry Hinton Brook, downstream from Daws Lane, would benefit from its improvement as

a habitat by the increase in the variability of channel width and depth, the placement of gravel to form riffles, and the increase in the diversity of aquatic vegetation and macro-invertebrates. The City Council Nature Conservation Officer, Guy Belcher would, with the Wildlife Trust, take a leading role in the design, implementation, and supervision of the work which would extend from September 2012 to March 2014.

**Topographical survey of the Cherry Hinton Brook.** Earlier in the spring Friends were curious to know the objectives of the two surveyors who were seen in painstaking action in the general area of the Brook. They were in fact surveying the Cherry Hinton Brook, the East Cambridge Main Drain (which runs, in part, between Daws Lane and the grounds of Cherry Hinton Hall), and Coldham's Brook, and their altitudes in relation to the lakes and to the land drained by the three channels including the neighbourhoods of Walpole and Birdwood Roads, for example.

The object was to make it possible to address some inconsistencies between the current flood zones (see the flood probability map in Titbits 19, June 2011) and the modelling that can be found on the Environmental Agency's website. The results are being passed on to the EA to be used as the basis for a new hydrological model. It is likely that the accuracy of the flood probability map will be improved. The survey has been part-funded by the City Council and the EA. The modelling is due to be completed this summer.

**AGM 7 June 2012** 7.30pm at 31 Chalmers Road. Find us on **Facebook** at 'Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook'.

David Brooks, 01223 244528, 23 May 2012