

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 27, Aug. 2012

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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. Swans: Fearful or indifferent? Friends of the Brook will have their own thoughts about the extent to which this **Folk Festival** structure intrudes into an area designated by the City Council as a **Wild Life Site**. In any case the Council benefits to the tune of £30,000 for allowing it to be constructed across the weir and brook.

2. Improvements to the channel of the brook. The lower photograph, immediately downstream from the weir (just about visible under the bridge), shows the recently placed flint gravel banks and riffles. Some of the gravel has been displaced by paddlers and dogs. There is now, also, a fallen tree.

Unhappily, the **Wildlife Trust** reports that their application for funding for their **Cambridge Brooks & Wetlands Project** (which would have financed such improvements downstream from Daws Lane - see Titbits 25) was unsuccessful. But they say that all is not lost. They will be asking the Environment Agency for detailed feedback, and depending on their comments, they hope to revise and resubmit the application during the Autumn of 2012. It is also possible that the Environment Agency will be able to fund some of the individual elements of the application such as the Cherry Hinton Brook. Discussions with the EA about this are ongoing.

3. The opening of the Romsey Lakes to the public. Local media and organisations have been buzzing with discussion about this possibility, triggered to some degree by the consultation process leading to the City Council's **Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031** (see Titbits 26).

The FCHB committee has prepared a document, for submission to the Council, to summarise its overview of the whole area between the brook and Coldham's Lane. A copy of this will be distributed shortly.

Broadly speaking the committee is in favour of public access to the lakes for quiet informal recreation that does not detract from the nature conservation value of the brook and the lakes. Fishing is an important recreational use and is compatible with the types of other recreation being proposed for the lakes in general that will help to protect the wildlife.

Any more intrusive activities should be restricted to the substantial area of 'unused' land between Coldham's Lane and the railway. In any case there should not be any building development in any part of this green corridor, including the area of the Daws Lane allotments.

David Brooks (01223 244528), 2 August 2012

