

# Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 11, April 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.

**1. Cam Valley Forum** held its AGM on 29 March. The speaker afterwards was Andrew Chapman, Senior Environment Planning Officer (Water Resources), Anglia Region Central Area, of the Environment Agency. He gave an extremely clear and informative overview of the **hydrology of the Cam catchment as a whole**, in relation to **the management of its water as a resource**. Incidental to the talk he confirmed that water is piped to the **reservoirs at the top of Limekiln Hill** by the Cambridge Water Company from the two groundwater abstraction licence sites at Babraham and Fulbourn. This could only indirectly affect the Cherry Hinton Brook by lowering the general water table, thus reducing spring flow at Giant's Grave.

**2. Nature notes.** Whilst some chiffchaffs do overwinter in UK, those heard in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of March, in the willows at the side of the Brook in Burnside, had made the journey back from Southern Europe and North Africa. Such tiny birds, such a journey and such a welcome sound.

In mid-March the sudden warm weather plus rain meant that the annual migration of amphibians to the Brook and the Lakes burst into action. The steep kerb to the pavement by the Brook meant that they were unable to complete their journey easily and many meet an untimely death in the road (some whilst actually mating). However, Friends who live in Burnside were out in force to rescue them, so about 200 frogs, and a few dozen newts and toads made it to the water. A hastily made notice was placed at either end of the road alerting car drivers and cyclists to the predicament.

(Holly Anderson)



**3. Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall** held their last meeting on 24 March. They are actively involved in discussion of the **initial proposals for the redevelopment of the old 'Propagation' area**. These extend to the Brook and include the possibilities of dredging the pond and laying paving around it, the construction of a new stone bridge, and new seating. The **attack on a goose by a dog** was discussed at the meeting. Their next meeting is on **Wednesday 19 May at 7pm in the Baptist Church Centre, Fisher Lane**.

**Cambridgeshire Police's community magazine**, On Your Beat, stated that Cambridge South's Neighbourhood Team have completed 34 hours of walking during Friday and Saturday evenings from 8 – 11pm, in and around Cherry Hinton Hall grounds. This was a direct result of the September 2009 meeting of the FCHH.

**4. The school holiday** has brought about a welcome general reduction in the daily amount of litter in the **Dawes Lane** area, but warm sunny weather marked the beginning of the trespassing season. This involves throwing into and around the Brook as much litter and rubbish as can be found so as to build up a bridge at the most popular access point to the Lakes.

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