

# Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook: Occasional Titbits, No. 15, January 2011

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

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.*

## Proposed Romsey Town Conservation Area - should this extend to the brook?



This special issue of Titbits focuses on the Burnside part of Cherry Hinton Brook as we feel strongly that this corner has been overlooked in the current proposals for a conservation area in Romsey. As explained in Titbits 14, the deadline for comments on the proposal is **17 January 2011**. FCHB has written to the council urging inclusion of Brookfields and Burnside which we feel are very much part of Romsey, artificially detached by the more recent Perne Road and Brooks Road. The footpath, known as Snakey Path, is the old route from the town to the countryside and is of historic interest as well as a much loved and well-used natural resource.

By 1901, Cambridge had spread across the Mill Road railway bridge, forming Romsey Town, and ended at Burnside, which was then known as Brookside. The cottages are of the same style and period as those already being considered and would complete the architectural and historic integrity of the area. The occupations of the residents of Brookfields and Brookside/Burnside listed in the 1901 Census reflect the very industrial nature of this part of town at the time. Residents in Burnside included coal yard, cement works, and agricultural labourers, a coal car man, and a telephone wireman. The houses set back at the end of Burnside were occupied by a gas fitters, stone mason, and three agricultural labourers. In Brookfields were three labourers (a plumber's, a blacksmith's, and one at a gas works), a lime works foreman, and a horse shunter.

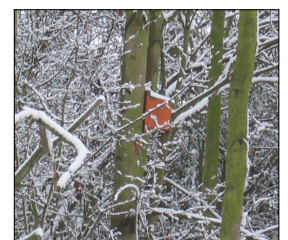
If you wish to comment, write to [susan.smith@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:susan.smith@cambridge.gov.uk) by 17 January. See <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/content/consultations/mill-road-and-st-matthews-and-romsey-conservation-area-appraisals-consultation.en>

### Burnside wildlife



The snowfall in December left Burnside looking like a scene on a Christmas card and the bare branches of the trees, recently cleared vegetation and white snow made it much easier to spot the wildlife along the brook. Most days a kingfisher was seen perched on the low-lying branches above the stream waiting for a meal to swim by. There were amazing views of the iridescent blue back and orange breast, and the bird was seen to successfully dive into the water and bring out a fish to shake against a branch and eat. One day the piping call of two kingfishers rang out as they chased each other along the brook – two bright blue flashes against the white snow. They are helped by the fact that the brook, being a fast flowing stream, does not freeze over completely. It has, though, been cold enough for the edges to freeze this year, causing the moorhens to slip and slide when landing in the brook from their perches in the willow trees.

Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and sparrow hawks have also been seen in the vegetation between the brook and the lakes, and the mixed flocks of tits and finches have been joined by coal tits. The bird boxes on the trees have helped to encourage these smaller birds, many of which huddle together for warmth inside the boxes in the freezing conditions.



### Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall event, 19 January 2011:

Talk on "The Lost Watermills of Cherry Hinton" by local historian Michelle Bullivant. Baptist Centre, Fishers Lane, Cherry Hinton. Admission free; raffle and refreshments.

Sue Wells (01223 711017) and Holly Anderson, 3 January 2011