

**SENIOR RANGER'S REPORT
APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2007
(Report by Senior Ranger, Hinchingsbrooke Country Park)**

1. STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

- 1.1 Approximately 350 volunteer days have been worked. There has been a noticeable increase in youth offenders work parties. Year 10 work experience meant 8 weeks of 2 or 3 young people each day, the standard has again been high and the students have been willing to work hard. One young man from Hinchingsbrooke School enjoyed his time so much that he came regularly throughout the summer as a volunteer.
- 1.2 Our Countryside Centre Assistant left us in September to take up a post elsewhere within the Council. Following interviews for a replacement, an external appointment has been made, and will be joining us at the end of October.

2. COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE

2.1

| Groups 2007 | Amount from groups | | Schools we worked with | Amount from schools |
|-------------|--------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| 181 | £20,311 | | 30 | £4095 |

3. EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- 3.1 Courses for adults and children have been successful over the summer, the favourites again involving mini-beasts and pond dipping. Where booking was necessary, we had 146 places reserved.
- 3.2 Responsible dog ownership – PDSA.

4. WIDER DISTRICT

- 4.1 Countryside Services attended the International Bird Fair and was able to promote the district as a tourist centre.
- 4.2 Work parties have been held at various sites including:-
- (a) Spring Common (mowing and constant litter picking)
 - (b) Holt Island – boardwalk repairs and tree clearance
 - (c) Colne Graveyard

- (d) SSSI work at Eastfield House
- (e) Stukeley Meadows
- (f) Godmanchester Nursery
- (g) Ouse Valley Way: - Removal of fallen trees
- (h) Barford Road assisting with fencing and mowing

5. PARK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Much of the summer work has involved footpath clearance, mowing and thistle removal.
Fencing the wildlife area due to increases in visitors numbers and the need to maintain the under story.
Storm damage - tree work.
Disabled access fishing platform constructed.
Continuation of footpath around the lake- the weather hindered the progress this year.
The improvements to the hard surfaced paths of Chestnut Avenue and the circular path has been funded by a grant of £29,000.

6 MISCELLANEOUS

- 6.1.1 The police and PCSOs have worked alongside rangers and after a poor start to the summer when all benches were burnt (cost of £1,000 to replace), vandalism and anti social behaviour has become virtually nil.
- 6.1.2 Lightening caused damage to the alarm system which initially cost £1000 to repair, but has since had a knock on effect and has cost another £1000 due to surges.
- 6.1.3 The Friends of HCP have been very active. The fun run in April raised £1000, the wine evening a profit of £350.

**Contact
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