

SENIOR RANGER'S REPORT FOR October 07 to March 08

STAFFING

- Hanna resigned in November. From February Jim Walker has had a 4 day contract to cover these 2 days and the 2 general ones he does for countryside services
Judith & David have been covering the Watch Club.
- Jackie Elliott has successfully replaced Angela in the countryside centre

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers: October to March inclusive: 437

COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE

Number of Groups/people from beginning October 2007 to end of February 2008 was as follows:

	Groups	Number of People	
01/10/06-28/02/07	132	2544	£12,000
01/10/07-28/02/08	139	3218	£17,000

These included such groups as:, Youth Offending Service, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Cambs Advisory Service and Dialdruglink,
Looking at the bookings for the next 6 months, already have 102 bookings with around £8000 income
CAFÉ

- The café continues to be popular. On Sunday 16th Feb staff took over £700 in one day. That figure was reached only occasionally last summer! It is well and truly on the map!
- Plans for extension – Mtp bid was lodged and a more detailed business plan is now required.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Big Draw was very popular
Boxing Day walk, 131 adults plus children
Friends of HCP Christmas sale
Cromwell Veterinary Nurses dog show
Guided walk for Wandlebury Staff
Guided walks for Healthy walks leaders

WIDER DISTRICT

- Godmanchester Nursery -trees and some site maintenance
- Holt Island- footpath and tree work
- Hartford Wood- litter picking and general conservation management
- Colne Graveyard- low level conservation management
- Ouse Valley Way- cutting back hedgerows and additional kissing gates

PARK MANAGEMENT

- Path around the lake was completed, it is possible to walk with relatively mud free boots
- Tree surveys & associated work – apart from Chestnut Avenue, there is very little that is necessary
- Ash regrowth has been cut around lake
- Scrub bashing on spit head
- Wood chips on woodland paths (particularly on the bridleway)to improve the walking surface
- Management plan- has been reviewed and up dated
- Safety improvements to the entrance- new footpaths and fencing have been installed

FRIENDS OF HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK

- Membership now – 70 people
- Funds increasing due to the enthusiasm of the younger committee members. For example the Christmas Shopping evening had £400 profit and the Wine evening raised £400. They are supporting the entrance improvements

Misc.

- Spate of thefts from cars in the car park in November meant we had to flood the area with signs. The two people involved also took a bag from the café, however they were caught and both sentenced to 6 months in prison.
- Pollution scare into ornamental Lake in Nov, was eventually traced to be the school line marking paint