

## REPORT FOR April 09 to October 09

### STAFFING

Jim Milligan replaced Laura Russell on a 6 month short term contract

### VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers: April to October : 491 plus 6 work experience students for two weeks each, plus 2 regular volunteers in the cafe

### WHEELCHAIR USE

463 times

### COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE

Number of Groups/people from beginning April 09 to end of September 2009 was as follows:

|                      | Groups | Number of People | Number of schools |
|----------------------|--------|------------------|-------------------|
| 01/04/07 - 30/09/07  | 181    | 4334             | 30                |
| 01/04/08 - 30/09/08  | 197    | 5679             | 39                |
| 01/04/09- - 30/09/09 | 188    | 4690             | 17                |

Groups were slightly down on the same period last year, these included such groups as:, Wildlife trust, Great Fen Project

The bookings continue to come in from both new and repeat customers

As last year at this time, the next two months are very busy with advance bookings

### CAFÉ

- The first 6 months has been a success. Rotas and food ordering have taken some time to manage successfully, but appear to be correct now. Very little waste, but good variety of food.
- Local suppliers are increasingly being used.
- £4000 has been taken by providing 31 buffets in the summer. Already have 16 buffets booked for October and 19 for November

### EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- Activities such as angling, pond dipping continue to be over subscribed during the summer holidays.
- 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend
- MS society walk attended by the mayor, MP and Lewis Smith (Olympic gymnast) and Parkinson society walks
- South eastern league mountain bike race
- Bat walks

### WIDER DISTRICT including

- Holt Island- access work, trial of alternative surfaces
- Ouse Valley Way- cutting footpaths
- Fenstanton pond cleared
- Oxmoor- much help given with Anglia in Bloom and planting schemes around the area
- River clean ups and St Ives litter pick
- Spring Common, Views Common and Stukeley Meadows 21 litter picks

### PARK MANAGEMENT including

- Mowing, cutting and strimming
- Seat maintenance
- Entrance improvements
- New signs

- Orchard planting was completed and first open afternoon held

### **Future**

- \* Simple play equipment to attract families to walk down the better footpath from the car park
- \* Town Council under 5s play equipment
- \* Scrub clearance around the lake, so that next summer it can be cut and baled and overall grassland habitat improved

### **FRIENDS OF HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK**

- Friends donated £2000 towards the orchard and the interpretation boards. Currently considering up to date interpretation boards, wildlife cameras in the café and picnic benches near the car park
- Membership now – 80 people
- Recycled boats
- Wine evening and Christmas sale still to come

### **MISC**

With great help from the police, cctv and PCSOs the amount of damage, litter and drunken behaviour over the summer has been very low

**Contact  
Officer:**

**Mrs Judith Arnold, Senior Ranger,  
Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Countryside Services.  
 01480 451568**