

SENIOR RANGER'S REPORT FOR April 2011 to September 2011

STAFFING

- Pat Knight and Roland Fletcher have taken redundancy
- Paul Claydon now covers time at Ouse Valley Way, Holt Island, Paxton Pits and HCP
- Judith Arnold covers the majority of Pat's role with Kirsty Drew covering Great Fen and planning, both reporting direct to Eric Kendall

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers: April to Sept inclusive: 909 at HCP alone including 4 school work experience students, also have one D of E volunteer regularly in the café as well as one person recovering from mental health issues.

COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE

Number of Groups/people from beginning April to end September 2010 was as follows:

	Groups	Number of People	Number of schools
01/04/07 - 30/09/07	181 £20311	4334	30 £4095
01/04/08 - 30/09/08	197 £20346	5679	39 £5377
01/04/09 - 30/09/09	188 £17859	4690	17 £2844
01/04/10- 30/09/10	187 £16260	5107	30 £4012
01/04/11 – 30/09/2011	159 £20,258	5273	23 4985

These included such groups as:, Early Years, Cambridge Advisory Service and the Forensic Lab

CAFÉ

Significant staff changes have been made. From 1st April the three staff each dropped to 4 days a week. Nicky then left and the remaining two have occasionally worked an additional day with a newly created bank of casual staff being asked to work hours when needed. This is the bare minimum Judi frequently covers holiday (or sickness just recently)

In the first 6 months of this year, the new small range of sales goods has currently brought in £2,000, and lessons learnt regarding the type of products people wish to purchase.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- Sports Day –570 people had a go at 15 different sports and met people from the local sports clubs
- St Ives Cycle Club Mountain Bike Race
- MS fundraising and awareness day

Noticeably there was not a calendar of summer events arranged in order to save some money. Numerous complaints/comments were received and Rangers are currently working on the provision of cost effective events for next year.

Some 930 pupils attended school visits at HCP organised by Rangers..

WIDER DISTRICT

- Coneygear Park and Oxmoor. Rangers have worked with volunteers and community groups to improve the estate particularly aiming towards community involvement. Moor in Bloom gained silver for Best Urban Community in Anglia in Bloom. In Britain in Bloom again won silver and significantly Brian's work at Spring Common school each Monday brought in the best school garden for special needs in Britain in Bloom.

- Huntingdonshire Community Nursery Rangers was awarded best special needs garden in Anglia in Bloom
- Colne graveyard has regular work parties.
- Stukeley Meadows has had more input this year as we are no longer employing Wayside Wildlife

PARK MANAGEMENT

- Tree surveys & associated work
- Fences have been constructed around the Wash
- A new bird hide has been constructed on the Spit

FRIENDS OF HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK

- Interpretation boards have been purchased and located
- The orchard was officially opened by Cllr Dutton in September
- The Christmas Shopping day is on November 20th

“BALANCING THE BUDGET”

Rangers continue to be creative to raise income and cut costs, staff workshops have been held and trials identified.

More social events have been hosted in the countryside including birthdays, Christening and a Hen night.

The opportunity to hold wedding receptions still exists

Volunteers have recently started trialling hazel hurdles and wooden products using free resources and labour in order to raise income

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

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