

## Friends of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

At the Friends' AGM in May 2014, a number of the existing committee members stepped down after several years of dedicated service. In their place, a new committee took shape with a mixture of experienced hands, as well as some new volunteers (which included a new Chairman and Secretary).

Shortly afterwards, a change was also made after the HDC Operations restructure, with the Senior Ranger at the park becoming the HDC representative on the Friends committee.

Since then, the new committee has made some significant contributions, including;

- Upgrades and amendments to the constitution, the first significant changes since 2003
- A brand new style of newsletter has been produced for members (see copy attached)
- From March 2015 – March 2016, membership has grown from 132 to 167, a 26% increase.

Going forward, the Friends have just drafted a letter to be circulated to all existing groups that use the park. The aim of this letter is to ask for help from these groups in raising funds for the park – a copy is attached with this report.

Finally, below is a list of some of the major projects the Friends have funded, or contributed towards, over the years;

### Friends of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Summary of main items purchased/supported Y/end

2006	Tramper purchase		£5,626
2007	Literacy project		£2,300
2008	Park projects	£3,323	
	Litter project	£1,653	
			£4,976
2009	Café Furniture	£2,000	
	Orchard project	£2,000	
	Camera System	£385	
			£4,385
2010	Bat Boxes	£200	
	Interpretation Boards	£2,209	
			£2,409
2011	Interpretation Boards	£4,000	
	Microscope	£385	
			£4,385

2012	Oxmoor Project		£500
2014	Assisted Cycle	£1,800	
	Café Furniture	£600	
	Telescope	£367	
	Park Anniversary Celebrations	£500	
	School visits subsidy	£200	
			£3,467
2015	Decking	£6,066	
	FCC (10%)	£2,325	
	Fencing	£2,233	
			£10,624
			£38,672

For 2016, the Friends contributed £1800 towards the footpath improvement works at the entrance into the park from the nearby 'Christie Drive' housing estate, as well as agreeing £2000 towards a custom-made tern raft (currently being built), to provide much needed habitat on our wildlife lake.