

BOUGHTON FEN REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 02.08.2013

As usual at this time of year, work on the fen is low key as we leave it to our summer visitors. We have, however, kept the wildlife walk clear with small working parties using our cutter and strimmers.

A team of moth recorders visited the fen recently, which I am sure would have looked rather spooky from above, with their bright lights dotted around the area, luring the varied species in to be recorded.

We are always pleased to let you know about youth involvement, and this has continued with further community work for the Duke of Edinburgh award, as well as the local cub pack meeting to learn about the fen.

The Fen Committee has reached the final four in the shortlist for the Lloyds Banking Group Community Fund for this area. Two of the four finalists will receive £3000 to spend on their projects. To win this, we need to be in the top two of the area public vote. It would be great to have your support in this, so watch this space for further details of how to make your vote.

With the sun shining and temperatures high, winter may seem a long way off but the team are already starting to plan this year's autumn and winter work on the fen. It would be great to see our regulars, plus some new faces later in the year.

The reed beds have grown higher and stronger than we have seen for a number of years, due to the very wet weather last winter. Often when down on the fen, you can see the marsh harriers, which we have almost taken for granted, but of course they only started to breed here successfully four or five years ago. A first for this year is that a family of bearded tits have nested in the reeds.

Finally, a group of us went to Norwich a few days ago to receive our Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership award in the Site Award Category. I would like to thank the Fen Committee, the Parish Council, and most of all the many people who have helped us achieve such high standards over the last six years.

Mark Pogmore