

BOUGHTON FEN REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15.02.2013

In my last report, I mentioned that we had won awards from the CRPE. Ten of us attended the award ceremony at the Assembly House in Norwich where we collected both awards. The certificates are on display here, in the church. All of our new interpretation signs have been erected; one on each fen and one in the playground.

Dave Horkan and I attended a seminar about the Wissey Pilot Catchment Project, which is one of sixteen pilot schemes in England and Wales to encourage various interested parties to work together and enhance the usage and enjoyment of the river. A few days later, the steering group met here in Boughton Church and followed their meeting with a walk around the fen.

The roadside trees and bushes have received a long overdue haircut. To stop branches potentially damaging passing vehicles and blocking visibility - it is our responsibility to maintain our greenery. Thanks go to W R Chapman and Son for carrying out the work for us without charge.

Our contractor, Lee Roberts is continuing with our scrub control programme with some work on middle fen.

The first winter working party on Sunday 2nd February - lot of work was carried out cutting back areas of scrub on Highland Fen and keeping the paths clear. Obviously, the high water levels have restricted work this winter. We are hoping to construct a new piece of boardwalk at the entrance to Highland Fen to bridge the area that floods during heavy rain, which has been quite often this winter. Work proposed by the Environment Agency and Natural England to assist with retaining water in the fen has been postponed until the autumn, due to the very wet conditions.

The Health Walks Fit Together Group are visiting us again on April 11th at 10.30am. If you fancy a morning walk with a group of people come along. Details can be found on www.activenorfolk.org/fittogether.

Some younger people are becoming involved, with Josh Reardon from Boughton carrying out the community element for his bronze Duke of Edinburgh award with us on the fen. His young muscle power at the recent working party kept us going. The Wereham cub group are also intending to spend time there carrying out work towards their conservation badges.

Spring is just around the corner, so we look forward to seeing the first summer visitors along with butterflies, blossom and other things that make Boughton Fen special.

Mark Pogmore