

BOUGHTON FEN REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 24.07.2014

Since our last meeting, the summer weather has arrived along with all our summer visitors, including nightingales and cuckoos. We have also had the arrival of a number of human visitors.

On 26th April, we gave two guided walks around the fen as part of the CPRE award winner open days, with both trips being fully booked. Most of our visitors were from the east of the county and were surprised at the fantastic site we have here, especially when they were able to see four Marsh Harriers and a pair of Red Kites flying over the fen.

On 19th May, a group from Norfolk Wildlife Trust visited the site for an evening walk around the fen, led by Allan Hale. This was enjoyed by all the visitors, especially as a bittern flew over while they walked. We thank NWT Fakenham group for their donation of £25.

We had our own village get together on the fen on 21st June, when we celebrated the official opening of Boughton Fen Wildlife Walk with about forty people out for the afternoon. Joy Boldero, who had previously presented us with the CPRE Boldero award for access to the countryside, cut the ribbon as we all enjoyed a glass of fizz on Highland Fen.

Winter work concluded with the grass areas of Highland Fen being cut to a lower level as part of our management scheme. This was done by the Hawk and Owl Trust from Sculthorpe Moor, who also installed a new owl box for us.

The 'cutting team' has kept the wildlife walk clear so that people can enjoy the walk, and will continue with this until the grass slows down in September. Thanks to all those volunteers who have helped with this work.

We are now planning our autumn & winter work, which will be done along with Natural England, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Hawk and Owl, the Environment Agency, specialist contractors and of course, our loyal band of volunteers.

We hope to start a series of work parties in October this year, so if you are on email, I will be contacting you fairly soon. If you are not, and would like to help, please call me on 01366 500461.

Mark Pogmore