

## COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD

### NEWSLETTER DEC 2007

Dear Member,

Whether you are a fisherman or a conservationist we hope you have all enjoyed this last year fishing or just walking around Cofton Lake. Unfortunately due to the bad summer we experienced, quite a few days which had been arranged for working parties had to be cancelled. We do now have a contractor who comes in and cuts the grass around the car park area and some work has been carried out on various trees that had either fallen or were likely to fall but more work needs to be done in order to ensure that no trees are left which might appear to be dangerous.

Now that the work has been completed by British Waterways on the leak to the dam wall, plans are in hand for the erection of the bridge. The bridge has been made 'off site' and it is hoped it will be installed very soon. Once this is erected work will be started on the boardwalk. Meetings have taken place on site with members of the committee and various boardwalk manufacturers and the exact position has now been established. As soon as this is erected the committee intend to ensure that the whole of the pathways are clear and the lake can then be walked around. The small gate at the south/east corner will then be blocked off. The badgers have once again been busy blocking the pathway and it has been suggested that a bridge be built across the pathway over the badger sett. This would be comparatively easy to erect and we should have enough steel left from the boardwalk.

The hedgerow that was planted last year on the south boundary is growing well but more plants need to be planted to ensure this is impenetrable although no sightings of intruders have been reported over this last year.

Some fishermen have complained about the amount of dog mess around the lake area. Will members please not let dogs loose in this area. As it states in the Rules, dogs should be kept on a lead. Please do take your mess home with you!

When the paper work was being compiled at the commencement of the Company, our Solicitor told us that it was not necessary to number the certificates. Our Secretary and Treasurer worked long into the night to get all these certificates out prior to Christmas and to number the certificates was something there just wasn't time for and as it was not absolutely essential the numbers were left off. However, it would be useful for them to be numbered. Your certificate number is written at the end of this news letter. Could you please insert this onto your certificate. We have a list of all members with their membership number. Could you please insert this number on your certificate.

It was brought to the notice of the committee that some residents backing onto the lake had e-mailed committee members and received no reply. These e-mails apparently went through our web site. We have checked our web site which appears to be working correctly and the Committee wish to point out that all e-mails, letters, etc are dealt with as and when received. For new members who may not know the Committee, at the end of this letter is a list of Committee Members and contact numbers. Please do use our web site and let us have any comments or interesting photographs you have taken. For those of you who do not have access to a computer Simon Munn will be showing the web site at the AGM.

**News From White Swan Piscatorials:** “ Fishing was difficult at the start of the year – whether this was due to the low water levels, cormorants, or fishermen who weren’t good enough on the day, we will never know. Following the repair of the dam when water levels returned to normal, fishing did improve and there have been numerous reports of carp of between 14-lbs and 16-lbs being caught. We have also received reports of members fishing with tackle that is simply not up to the job for catching such large fish, and so for 2008, we have introduced a new rule which specifies a minimum breaking strain line of 10-lbs, and a minimum hook size of 10 when fishing for carp at Cofton. We have also banned the use of braid for main lines, as this can damage the fish when caught. Two new groups of floating islands have been installed in the lake to give the fish further protection from the cormorants, who visit during the winter months. We are very disappointed with the growth on the original islands, which seem to only have a healthy growth of weeds. We are discussing with the supplier of the islands what can be done, and hope that re-planting with reeds will take place in the early part of 2008”

The date for the **AGM** has been made for **20<sup>th</sup> April 2008** at 4.00 pm in Cofton Hackett Village Hall. This date is later than normal as it is only sensible to be able to hand out copies of the Accounts for the previous year at the AGM and as our year end is December it is not possible to get these completed by February. We do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend the AGM so please put this in your diary for 2008.

It would be a great help if you could ensure that the annual £10 maintenance contribution is paid prior to this date. This can either be sent by cheque to the registered office made payable to Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd (19 Cofton Lake Road, B45 8PL) or cash given to Sue Garvey our Treasurer at 58 Ashmead Drive. The Committee would like to thank all members who paid more than the £10 requested. This money will be most useful and we assure you will be carefully spent.

The Committee wish to thank all members for their continued support during 2007.