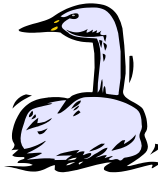


COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013



Dear Member,

Can hardly believe it will be 10 years in 2014 since Cofton Lake was originally purchased. Quite a lot has been achieved in that time. The major project of course was enabling access all around the lake shore. The boardwalk across the marsh and the bridge across the sluice being the biggest and most expensive of our projects. For those of you who were not members at this time we would point out that our predecessors, for financial reasons, had neglected this site for many years and it was completely overgrown. We are pleased to say that thanks to our contractors the pathways along the north shore are now clear and work will start during the winter months to cut back dead and dangerous trees and widen the pathway along the south bank. We had an expert from Worcestershire County Council visit us earlier in the year and he marked any trees that needed felling and gave us advice on how to manage the site. In order to comply with our Public Liability Insurance, we have to make the area as safe as possible. There are now 6 benches installed and a picnic table but we are planning on installing another 3 benches at some future stage. If anyone would like to donate a bench it would be much appreciated.

Once the whole site has been worked on by the contractors we will reduce the time they carry out work here as we can't afford to have them for one day per month on a permanent basis. The Committee have received many e-mails and phone calls from members saying how pleased they are with the work to date. However with the help from the Fishing Club and volunteers we do feel that now that the major work has been done a couple of days in the summer months with working parties should keep the pathways clear.

Can we remind everyone that subs are due in during January – please see attached slip. Anyone wishing to donate more than the £12 per annum can be assured it will be well spent.

The web site now has a questions and answer page. Minutes of meetings, Newsletters, photographs and other general information is added constantly so please do check the web site from time to time.

We were very fortunate earlier in the Spring to find two beautiful swans on the lake. They decided to make it their home and nested and had 5 cygnets. Unfortunately we now only have 1. We did find one dead but the others completely disappeared. Maybe foxes who knows! We have had a problem with them falling over the sluice. A group of our members

installed a mesh fence to stop them going over but Canal & River Trust (British Waterways) were informed and we were told to take it down. We asked CART to give us some advice and suggest an acceptable method of keeping them safe. To date no reply has been received and twice in the last 48 hrs a cygnet has had to be rescued. The RSPCA were called in on 3 occasions who suggested a net! It now seems the cygnet is old enough to climb back onto the lake on its own so this will not be necessary. However, should they nest next spring something will have to be done and the RSPCA have offered to assist.

Fishing Club Report – Dave Townshend

This year's maintenance activities have continued with general improvements to the pathways. You will have noticed that we have moved the floating island that we replanted last year to the top end of the lake and we are in the process of removing the other floating islands for repair. Whether we put them back is to be decided – it's quite expensive to buy the materials to replant them so we will wait and see how the one that has already been done fairs next year. At last year's AGM, we discussed the construction of a wheelchair access to the lower pathway. There have been a number of meetings with the committee of CLCL, but we have been unable to agree on the position for the access. The only agreeable position involved work and costs which exceeded the funds agreed by our Committee, and so reluctantly we have withdrawn the proposal to create the wheelchair access.

THE DATE FOR THE AGM FOR 2014 IS SUNDAY 27TH APRIL AT 4.00 PM – THE VENUE HAS CHANGED FROM COFTON VILLAGE HALL TO THE FUNCTION ROOM (DOWNSTAIRS) AT THE OAK TREE PUBLIC HOUSE AT THE ISLAND AT THE CORNER OF LICKEY ROAD AND GROVELEY LANE.

On behalf of the Committee we thank you for your continued support and wish all our members a Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year.

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

PLEASE ENSURE THIS IS IN BY END OF JANUARY

Annual subscription is £12 but the Committee would like to thank all members who pay more – they can be assured that this money is put to good use.

Name.....

Address.....

Subs to be in by end January. Cheques to be made out to Cofton Lake Conservation Limited and sent either to Sue Garvey 58 Ashmead Drive Cofton Hackett B45 8AB or the registered office 19 Cofton Lake Road, Cofton Hackett B45 8PL or direct into our bank Sort Code 30-96-12 A/C 03559817

According to the Memorandum and Articles of Association the subs for the lake are due from the date of the AGM until the 1st January in the following year. Anyone not paying in this period would have their share cancelled and made null and void.

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