

Environment

Achievements

During the year the environmental theme group have carried out the following activities:

- The formation of the Friends of Abberd Brook
- Maintenance of a clean river at Castlefields Park

Ongoing issues

- Dog fouling is still forming a nuisance in some areas
- Fly tipping of shopping trolleys and other large items

There are two environmental groups operating in the Calne Area.

Castlefields Canal and River Park Association

This area has benefited much over the years from the care that Castlefields Canal and River Park Association have given it, with recent completed works of the Chavey Well restoration and the planting of the wildflower meadow. They continue to have the Bunny Hunt in Easter.

Plans are now in place to restore the town lock on the Wilts & Berks Canal which will create a feature in the park that will be both educational and visually pleasing. It is hoped to be completed by summer 2011.

Friends of Abberd Brook

The Abberd Brook flows from the East end of Calne to the river Marden at the Doctors pond in Calne.

The brook was in a bad state of neglect.

- Banks are slipping and covered with stinging nettles

- The spring fed pond near the Coleman's farm estate flats was in need of attention
- Fly tipping of shopping trolleys and other large items
- Bottles, cans ,wrappers and plastic carrier bags strewn along the banks
- Dog faeces fouling on the footpaths and banks.

The Friends of Abberd Brook was formed in February 2010 and they have organised regular litter picking groups along the banks as well as occasional clearance of the brook itself.

In March 2010, the group successfully organised a major clean up of the brook by 35 local volunteers assisted by the Coleman's Farm Learning and Community Association and Westlea Housing. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers helped supervise and also supplied equipment for the event. It is hoped that this will be an annual event.

In order to increase the biodiversity of the brook and create a cleaner and healthier environment, the Friends aim to continue some smaller tasks as below:

Further tasks for 2010-2011

- Restoration of the stepping stones
- Improvement to the spring fed pond
- Removal of some stinging nettles
- Planting the banks with native plants and flowers to improve the biodiversity of the brook
- Monitor and where necessary remove the Himalayan Balsam

- Continue with the children's activity of Bug Hunting and Pond dipping
- Training of volunteers in first aid and conservation skills
- Encourage greater community cohesion by providing conservation activities using the local community centre
- To consult with Calne Town Council to replace the litter bins that have been vandalised or broken in the past.

Further tasks for 2010-2015

- Seek funding for the engineering works and dredging that are required to improve the flow and quality of water, strengthening the banks to provide good habitat for protected species
- Work with other groups to manage and enhance the site for wildlife
- Assist Calne Town Council to provide a green corridor from the Eastern end of Calne to the town centre.