

CAM VALLEY MATTERS No.5 12 November 2013
The Occasional Newsletter of the Cam Valley Forum
<http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/cam.valley.forum/>

Chair: Jean Perraton Editor: David Brooks

Please reply with any items suitable for the next newsletter, forward this letter to anyone else who may be interested, or, if you wish, reply to request that your address be taken off (or added to) this emailing list.

How it used to be The photograph below (c. 1970, in contrast to the recent photograph on the right) shows the River Cam near the Lammas Land paddling pool just upstream of Fen Causeway. This stretch was once the town



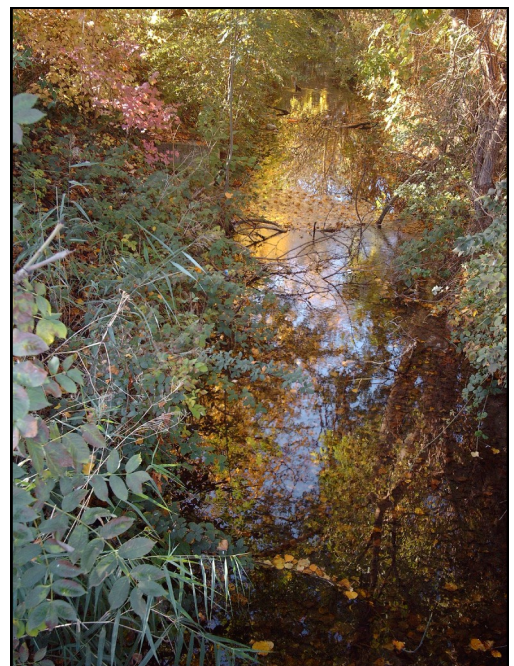
bathing place, where hundreds of men and boys (and later women and girls) swam in the summer. The presence of a 'custodian' trained in life saving, and other swimmers, as well as regular clearance of water weeds by the town council, helped ensure that people enjoyed swimming in relative safety. After the bathing place was closed, swimming became forbidden under the Cam Conservancy's bye-laws, but now the Conservancy no longer forbids swimming between the Mill Pond and Byron's Pool.



In August of this year a 12-year-old boy drowned hereabouts. The recent inquest found that the death was accidental. Though a witness saw the victim 'mucking about' with friends on the riverbank, all that could be done to try to save him was done. It was suggested however that the boy might have survived had there been a life-belt available.

Wilbraham River Protection Society The Chairman's report for the AGM on 21 November (at 7.30pm in Great Wilbraham school) dwells on rainfall and water abstraction. In recent years the flow in the river has followed a different pattern from that recalled in the 1970s and 80s; since then there has been a regular reduction and often a cessation in the flow during the autumn and winter that was not observed before. The Society continues to work closely with the Cambridge Water Company (which abstracts water from the Chalk aquifer which supplies the Wilbraham River) and the Environment Agency (which issues abstraction licences).

Last year the group was invited by the Cambridge Water Company, to nominate a representative onto the Local Water Forum; this group comprises local, interested delegates who are charged with the task of challenging the Cambridge Water Company Business Plan (2015-2020). This is being prepared as part of the regulator Ofwat's Asset Management Programme 6 (AMP6). The Society's involvement will continue until submission of the Business Plan to Ofwat in 2014 and will be providing the Society with a forum through which the case for greater protection of the river flows and the associated environment can be made.



Autumn 2009 at Sainsbury's,
on the Cherry Hinton Brook at Coldham's Lane