

Please email davidbrooks@btinternet.com with any items for him to consider for the next newsletter or to request that your address be taken off (or added to) the emailing list. Do forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested.

Our **2025 AGM** (7pm) and **Annual Lecture** (8pm, given by **Craig Bennett, Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trusts**) will be held in the David Attenborough Building on 24 March.



At the AGM the CVF committee will be delighted to propose that **Anne Miller** (left) and **Sue Wells** (right) be elected as CVF **Joint Chairs**.

Anne is an engineer and as a CVF member has made her indelible mark with her work towards the eradication of floating pennywort on the Cam ([Newsletter 43](#)) and the successful Sheep's Green's Bathing Water Designation ([Newsletter 95](#)). The latter is an ongoing matter ([Newsletter 99](#), and see [Press Release](#)).

Sue is a marine conservationist, as well as being active in local environmental affairs. She is a founder-member of the [Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook](#) and their longstanding Chair.

There will be further delight in proposing that new



member **Will Oliver** be elected as **Treasurer**. He is a qualified accountant and corporate treasurer (currently Finance Director at Tritax Big Box Developments). He also has valuable experience of the planning system and the important

emerging subject of Biodiversity Net Gain. He lives in Whaddon. He would succeed **Bruce Huett's** exemplary service from which the CVF has benefited greatly since 2021 ([Newsletter 65](#)).

[Newsletter No. 1](#) (3 June 2013) covered the proposal to open the Cherry Hinton Lakes as an 'urban country park'. On 31 January this year, more than eleven years later, this [highly controversial planning application](#) was approved with tight conditions.

The Forum itself was established somewhat earlier. Its detailed aims and [Constitution were agreed](#) at a 'public meeting' in Grantchester Village Hall on 14 December 2000. In short, its purpose was 'to protect and enhance the environment of the River Cam and its tributaries'.

The Water Resources East [2024 Progress Report](#) dated January 2025 offers some varied and interesting reading. Page 17 has a summary of the **Fens Reservoir** proposal.

The CVF has long been in favour of this reservoir. We see it as the only way to return rightful flows to our Chalk streams. The funding for its construction and the advertising of the need for its construction are still both totally focused on its potential for increased supply **to the tap**. We are therefore asking again for some **guarantee of abstraction reduction**, as has still been urged by the Environment Agency. The same EA has yet to licence the reservoir to take the needed river water from the Middle Level, Ouse Washes or Nene. **Will it be there to be had?**

What is clear now is that the Chatteris Fens Reservoir is being planned with one half of its supply potential (44 million litres per day) committed solely for the Cambridge Water Company. By 2035, when it may come on stream, Cambridge will need at least 90 Ml/d (cf. 86 Ml/d today). There is therefore **the potential** to make a considerable abstraction reduction in favour of Chalk stream flows in our catchment. But how can that possibly be guaranteed if it is not given as high a priority as 'rapid growth'?

However, Cambridge Water does at least assure us that gains to the environment from reductions in groundwater abstractions will have already started before the reservoir is in place through the planned reduction of licences.

With regard to a not unrelated issue the CVF has issued a [response](#) to the pre-consultation for Cambridge Water's 2027 **Drought Plan** which is revised [every five years](#).

Any readers with a specific interest in the **Cherry Hinton and Coldham's Brooks** may like to dip into their [Portrait](#) which shows, for example, that no known published map names correctly the waterways downstream from the (Rifle) Butts Bridge.