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NEWSLETTER

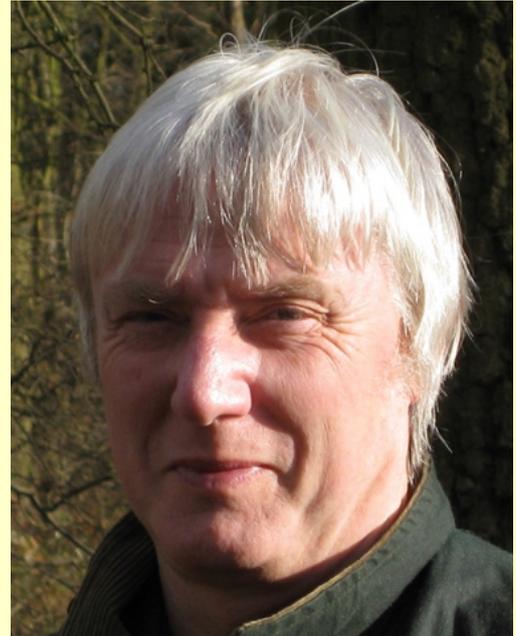
June 2018



**Discover the rich diversity
of Portholme Meadow.**

**speaker meeting at
Hartford Village Hall**

**Tuesday 26th June 7.30pm
admission £1.50 incl tea or coffee**



Speaker: Pat Doody

Having worked for the Nature Conservancy and its successor bodies Pat has been an independent coastal ecological consultant for 20 years.

Recently he has taken an interest in the River Great Ouse and its meadows. He is the Clerk and Trustee of the Thomas Miller Charity, which owns 4 acres on Portholme Meadow, Brampton Parish, Huntingdon.

Believed to be the largest flood-plain meadow in England (106 Ha), Portholme Meadow, Godmanchester is a Special Area of Conservation with an internationally recognised diversity of flora. The meadow is traditionally managed by cutting followed by grazing and it is flooded in the winter and early spring.



Good news for the Great Ouse Valley?

There is renewed hope that our stretch of the Great Ouse Valley could be closer to achieving a protected status such as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Environment Secretary has announced new plans for expansion of the UK's protected areas to meet the needs of the 21st Century. He will also explore whether visitor access to the parks can be improved while boosting wildlife and supporting the recovery of natural habitats.

“The creation of national parks almost 70 years ago changed the way we view our precious landscapes, helping us all access and enjoy our natural world,” Mr Gove said in a statement released by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

“Amid a growing population, changes in technology, and a decline in certain habitats, the time is right for us to look afresh at these landscapes. We want to make sure they are not only conserved, but enhanced for the next generation.”

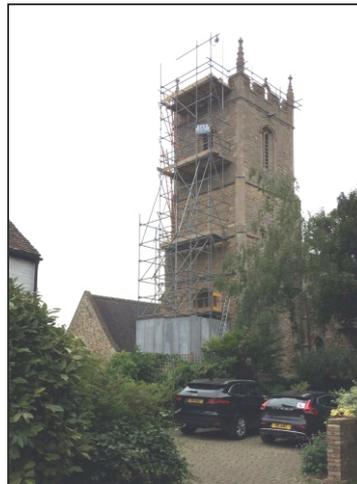
The Hartford Conservation Group is represented on the newly formed **Great Ouse Valley Trust**, dedicated to the restoration and conservation of our local landscape, its wildlife and fauna and its promotion as an area for the health and recreation of a fast growing local population.



2 HCG committee members elected Councillors

Juliet Cole has been elected to the Town Council and Mike Humphrey to Huntingdonshire District Council.

Juliet and Mike say “thank you” to everyone who voted for them on May 3rd and look forward to giving a voice to all our residents.



The scaffolding has gone up around **All Saints Church** in readiness for major works which will include a new roof, repairs to the parapets and the bells frame. A budget of £60, 000 will see the church ready for the coming years.

Mike Petty lined up for AGM Speaker, Tuesday October 16th.

For all those who enjoyed Mike's fascinating talk on Cambridgeshire in WW2, we are delighted to announce that he will be back for our AGM when he will speak on **the Floods of 1947**.

Keep up to date with your local Conservation Group: minutes of our Committee Meetings are now displayed in our notice board at the bottom of Sapley Road and online at www.hartfordconservation.org.uk.

This newsletter is produced by Mike Humphrey of the Hartford Conservation Group who can be contacted on 01480 436 444 or email info@hartfordconservation.org.uk .

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