

## Felmersham and Radwell P3 Group

### Annual report to Parish Council – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010

The group currently has 12 active members.

The year got underway with the establishment of the new Unitary authority of Bedford Borough – which has led to a change in the council co-ordination of the P3 groups in North Bedfordshire. There is currently no dedicated P3 Officer in Bedford Borough Council and groups are supported by the Countryside Services Manager, Ed Burnett, who had responsibility for P3 groups within the county council some years ago – and who was therefore known to several members of the group. The group have made contact with Ed and hope to invite him to a planning meeting over the next couple of months to discuss their ideas for future community involvement initiatives.

Group members' time constraints, together with an eagerness to promote our local Parish walks, led the group to decide in April to combine vegetation clearing activities with regular monthly walks – which it was agreed would take place on the second Sunday of each month. The walks started in May and continued in June and July, before being suspended in August and September owing to holidays and the Village Show. The monthly walks resumed in October and November – and then the December walk was replaced by the Boxing Day Walk. Owing to the wintry conditions and uncertain path conditions round the parish, the group led a walk around a snowy Stanwick Lakes in January 2010. The final walk for this year, will again take place outside of the parish, along the Ouzel Valley Walk in Milton Keynes. With the onset of spring, better weather and increased growth in vegetation, the monthly walks will return closer to home from April and will incorporate some trimming and chopping where required.

The walks have proved popular with a number of regular participants from both Radwell and Felmersham. On average, groups of around 15 walkers have joined the walk.

The group had one separate work party in September to repair signage and clear the entrance to the right of way off the Pavenham Road, where the path enters the golf course.

On December 26th, Ken Shrimpton led a very popular Boxing Day Walk on behalf of the group, which saw around 50 parishioners and their guests, including many children, braving the snow for a very enjoyable wintry walk to Sharnbrook and back to Felmersham via Yelow Lane.

On behalf of the group, Ken Shrimpton approached the PCC during the year about managing a section of St Mary's churchyard for wildlife. This suggestion met with the approval of the PCC and the group have offered their services, should any work be required to manage the area.

In 2010/2011, the group hopes to explore and take forward its ideas for involving parishioners in small scale local conservation activity and would like to have a presence at the proposed village fair, if it goes ahead.

Carol Stork, Group Co-ordinator  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010