



## FRIENDS OF BUTTS CLOSE

### AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER

September 2018

### *Harvest time...*



Resilient as ever, Butts Close regained its greenery once some rain fell. Then the Council contractors O'Connors mowed the 'conservation cut' areas, a twice-yearly job. After leaving the mowings to dry out, a baler from Blueberry Farm in Watton-at-Stone got to work, where the bales will be used for animal bedding.

### *The Avenue*

More husbandry by the Council: you may have noticed that some sapling trees have been planted in the gaps along the long path. These are Italian Alder. According to the RHS<sup>1</sup> they are 'majestic, conical, hardy deciduous trees reaching 15 - 25m in height. The glossy leaves may remain as late as December'. They also take about 50 years to reach full height. I won't be around...

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/894/Alnus-cordata/Details>

### *How was the summer?*

We are asking because NHDC Officers are holding a meeting shortly to review the use of Butts Close over the summer. There was a good deal of informal use by families, kids, dog walkers, groups playing football and rounders, picnicking and of course a lot of sunbathing. The formal use was:

- *Thurston's Funfair* in May
- *A Duathlon* (two-thirds of a triathlon) in July
- *The Swim Centre 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday*, when parking on the Close was authorised for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August and
- *Abbott's Funfair* (the quieter one) will be here Friday 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

The visit in June by the Circus was cancelled.

Bill Sellicks of Hitchin Forum and I have been invited to this meeting, on 27<sup>th</sup> September. It would be very helpful to get all of your feedback before then on your experience of the summer.

### *Rhythms of the World?*

You may have seen the article on the front page of the 13-9-18 edition of the Comet on future options for the ROTW festival, where Butts Close is mentioned as a possible venue in 2019. Much as we loved Rhythms, there would be a number of serious concerns about control, safety, and noise if Butts Close were to be a performance venue. Again, it would be very helpful to get your early views on this possibility.

### *It's Litter-pickin' time...*

Hitchin Forum, teamed with Clean Up Hitchin, have organised the Autumn Litter-Pick for 21<sup>st</sup> October. It's some way away and nearer the time I will be asking who will be volunteering for Butts Close. NOTE that this time there are hidden goodies to be found – see the poster below.

That's it, folks.

Tony Riley  
for  
FoBC  
September 2018

**HITCHIN FORUM**  
Caring for our Town

AND



PRESENT

# HITCHIN'S BIG GREEN LITTER PICK

WITH **LITTLE TREASURES**  
TO BE FOUND

**21ST OCTOBER 2018**  
**10AM - 12NOON**  
**ALL OVER HITCHIN**

TO JOIN IN EMAIL:  
[litter@hitchinforum.org.uk](mailto:litter@hitchinforum.org.uk)  
BY 14TH OCTOBER

MADE POSSIBLE WITH KIND SUPPORT FROM HITCHIN INITIATIVE &  
NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL