



FRIENDS OF BUTTS CLOSE

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Butts Close Hedge Planting, April 2020

The Woodland Trust has organised the provision of free packs of saplings for schools and community groups across the country, as part of a UK-wide initiative to increase the number of trees and mitigate the effect of global warming¹.

We wanted to contribute to this initiative by applying for a pack of (105) hedge saplings, and planting these along a 35m section of the perimeter of the Swimming Centre complex, arguably the least attractive part of the Close (see photo below). Our application has been successful!



This will have three outcomes:

- Increase the overall biodiversity of Butts Close
- Improve the amenity value of the Close by creating a green hedge line which will complement the existing hedge line to the south of this perimeter
- Deter the painting of graffiti on the existing wall surfaces – perhaps...

Andrew Mills, Greenspace Manager of NHDC, supports our initiative and he'll contribute by arranging for the preparation of the site prior to planting. There will need to be areas of access through the hedge for the electricity sub-station and for the existing water, comms and electricity service points.

¹ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

The saplings will be delivered around the end of March 2020. These will be bare roots and will be fine for planting for about six weeks from delivery.

We are looking forward to a 'Group Planting' in April, and we will start organising this in the early Spring. All Welcome!

Litter Picking in October

Once again, as part of the pan-Hitchin Clean-up, a team scoured the Close for cans, bottles, paper, plastic and (for the kids) jars with a 'treasure voucher' inside.



Across Hitchin there were the usual items - car tyres & chairs, a lawn mower, a bike, a retirement home sign, wooden & mesh fencing, a double bed headboard, bathroom sink pedestal, a full-size lamp post and even a samurai sword in its sheath. The Butts Close Team had its fair share, including an Asda trolley with its £1 coin intact. But Dan found an ordinary looking carrier bag that turned out to contain a metal moneybox from a café in town which had been burgled three days earlier. Sadly no money, but lots of till receipts & paperwork which were handed back, and Dan got a couple of vouchers from the grateful café.

And again in March!

The next Spring Big Clean-up will take place on 29th March. We'll send reminders out nearer the time. No guarantee of finding more burglars' swag this time, though.

And finally...

Our best wishes for the Season and for the New Year!



Contact Friends of Butts Close at buttsclose@gmail.com and Hitchin Forum through www.hitchinforum.org.uk