



FRIENDS OF BUTTS CLOSE

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER

July 2020

4th of July – a Day for Celebration...

This edition is really just an excuse to celebrate National Meadows Day, which was last Saturday, with a selection of photographs showing the increasing diversity of the Close. This is largely due to the wildflower seeding of the meadowland in and around the pond which was one of the outcomes of the GAP¹, and some anonymous planting around the saplings (not quite a hedgelet just yet).

We've described Butts Close before as a green lung for the town. This has never been more true – and more essential – since the pandemic struck, and with the earlier good weather people were able to relish it as a space to walk in, to breathe in and to play in. And for those first months at least, to do that in a much quieter environment, and at a slower rate.

We know that contact with green life is so important for our own mental well-being, and perhaps one reason is that we can connect with a process of growth, change and interaction that is at a totally different pace than our own. It slows us down.

We hope you enjoy these images.

¹ The Greenspace Action Plan, published 2016 by NHDC



Cow Parsley Meadow

Simon Maddison



Cowslips in early April (note the social distancing)

Tony Riley

which gave way in July to Oxeye Daisy and Black Knapweed

Simon Maddison



And then some little gems...

photo credits this page *Stuart Howarth*



Hairv Willowherb



Common Bird's-foot Trefoil



Field Bindweed



Purple Loosestrife



Brown Knapweed

...and now for some lunch...

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