

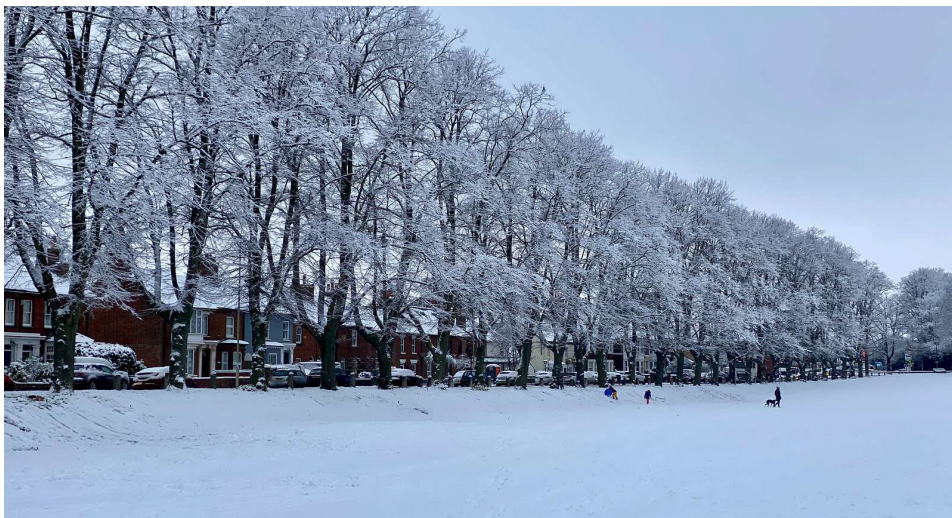


FRIENDS OF BUTTS CLOSE

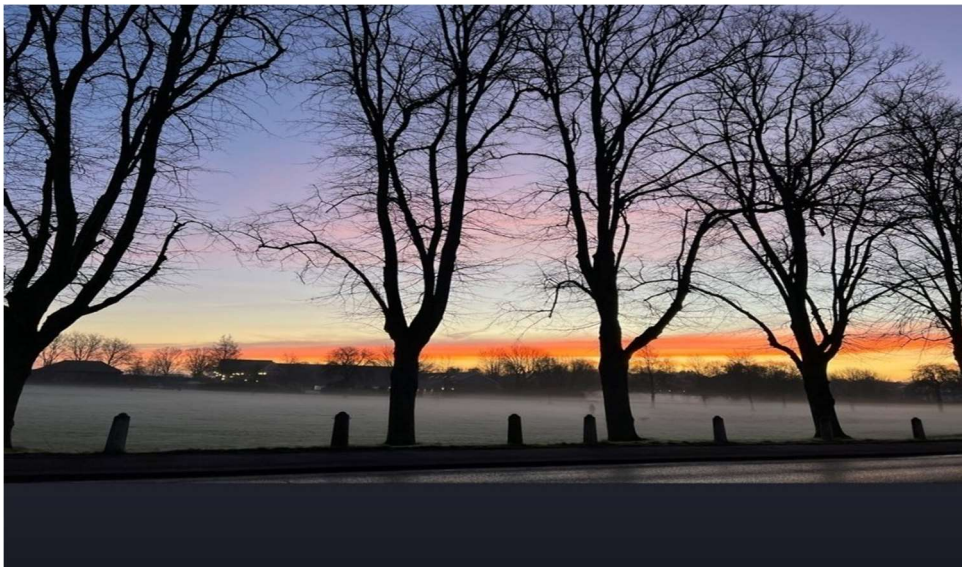
AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Has Winter Passed...?



Simon Maddison



Anna Parr

Perhaps, perhaps not yet. Which is making these cold, bright blue days all the more welcome, and never mind the sudden hailstones.

*Husbandry*¹.... the theme for the last two months.



TR

The Countryside Management Service planted new sapling trees along the southern wall of the Close, by the Health Centre car park, something we'd recommended for the Greenspace Action Plan.

As they mature over the years this will enhance the biodiversity of the Close.



TR

CMS also cut back the growth around the pond, giving it more definition and more space for wildlife to flourish. This was the pond before the haircut.

It quickly paid dividends. An egret and a heron investigated, and the egret has made a number of visits since. If you follow the Facebook link at the bottom of this page you will find short videos of both the egret and heron flying.



CMS

CMS also coppiced our new hedge running along the east side, against the swimming pool wall and fence.

The red outline shows the run of the coppiced hedge. The violet-pink line shows where CMS staked cuttings to help prevent people inadvertently trampling on the hedge. Two FoBC members have added five elders to the north end of the run, which will hopefully deter the graffiti aficionados on that west-facing wall once they grow up. But I guess not yet.

¹ I wondered where that word came from. It's old, around the year 1000. Old Norse has *husbondi*, meaning a house holder, and by extension the land, and thus husbandry is caring for the house and for the land. In Viking times agriculture would have been done mostly by women. But nothing to do with men or marriage - that gets attached later.

Events

These are the booked events on the Close so far:

Thurston's Fair 12th – 25th June

Hitchin Triathlon 2nd July

Triathlon Nitro 12th & 26th July

Circus Wonderland 18th Sept – 15th Oct

The Council has also approved Gumbles Funfair on Walsworth Common, from 24th March to 7th April.

Litterpicking Day

Hitchin Forum's Spring litterpick will be on Sunday 26th March. Please register at hflitterpick@gmail.com. Butts Close Pickers should meet by the pond at 10am.

Home, Sweet Home



Simon Maddison took this photo in early November, shortly after its completion. Anna Parr took the photo below at the end of February.

Amazingly, so far there are no graffiti.

We are still waiting for the tenants to move in...



Tony Riley, for the FoBC Steering Group

