

Quay Meadow 2020-21

Quay Meadow continues to be a tiny oasis of countryside in the village for walking, sitting and picnicking. We hope it still feels remote, natural and not too much like an urban park. The meandering paths and not too tidy edges help create this effect. The paths are mown regularly, the front hedge is neatly cut and the NOTT has agreed to a biannual cutting and removal of the grass from the whole meadow which is proving successful in so far as the area looks cared for and pleases those who like to be tidy without compromising the wish to make an inviting 'wild' place.

There are a good variety of grasses amongst the cow parsley which is now in full flower (as I type) along with a huge horse radish plant near the front of the meadow and although there don't seem to be that many migrant birds we have heard a couple of swifts, chiff chaffs, a pair of long tail tits with young, a sedge warbler and a garden warbler, these chirped happily with a robin, blackbirds and hedge sparrows. There were not as many butterflies as in previous years possibly because there is still a cold nip in the air and a robust wind never seems to be far away.

There are large areas of stinging nettles; this is because the stinging nettle is the most important native plant for wildlife in the UK supporting over 40 insects. They also act as protective barrier to the ditch running along the north east side of the meadow as well as being full of good nutrients:- iron, formic acid and natural histamine.

The picnic table has replaced the previous one that had rotted.

Millennium Wood

The Himalayan Balsam is showing signs of returning and we are working hard to keep on top of it.

MARY ILIFF
16th May 2021