

Welcome to the latest mini-edition of your newsletter, with an apology for its lateness. Although it's with good reason - Melanie and I have recently adopted a beautiful one-year old girl, who has kept us both very busy, but in the most wonderful way. Caitlin is already appreciating the beauty that Northcliffe has to offer, and loves taking a stroll through the woods or the park. She has only been with us now for eight weeks, and she is still very much settling in, with all that this entails. I know many of you have been wondering what's happening with newsletters, posters, etc, and I hope you'll understand and bear with us until Caitlin's fully settled. That's why we decided to print a 'mini newsletter' for now, and issue a 'bumper edition' newsletter in February. We're still really committed to Friends of Northcliffe, though, and hope you accept our apologies and understand the temporary position we're in. And if anyone is interested in helping out with publicity and newsletters, then please do get in touch.

It was on a recent walk up through the woods and back down past the meadow that we passed Caitlin's favourite bit - the new playground. Which was a pity, as she was fast asleep. However, it was lovely to see so many families using the playground, especially on such a chilly autumnal day. We do speak to people as we're out and about, and it's great to hear what a difference the play area has made for local residents. The play area is holding up really well in the face of the torrential downpours we've had since it was installed, a testament to the care and planning taken in its construction. Yes, the entrances are muddy, but given the amount of rain we've had, that's getting off lightly.

The play area has been the hit of this year for sure, but we've had a packed and successful programme of events on both the conservation and recreational fronts. We don't want to stand still, either. It takes time to organise things when you're a voluntary organisation, but we hope that the creation of a five year plan for Northcliffe will give us some direction, as well as enable us to access other sources of funding. We're developing the plan right now, and would like to consult you all as members about it following our AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup> January. We aim to hold the AGM at 6:30 for any members who wish to attend, and then follow it up with a separate meeting about our plans at 7:30, all to take place at Shipley Library.

We'll be sharing our plans with the Council too, on both the Woodland and Parks management sides. We had a walk around the park earlier in the year with the Area Parks Manager Malcolm Wright, with Councillor Martin Love and Jim from Bradford Model Engineering Society (BMES) also in attendance, at which we discussed some ideas.

The bird feeding area is another fantastic achievement in 2012. For those of you who haven't yet seen it, it's nestled away in a clearing on the land between the two allotment sites, on the right just before you reach the car park by NEET. You'll see a number of bird feeders, and a screened area that you can stand behind and watch the visitors. We'll soon be making it split level, so the birds can be enjoyed by all. We'll also be installing a noticeboard so that notes on species can be displayed. Joan, Keith and Hugh run this project for Friends of Northcliffe, with the design and labour coming from Steve Warrilow and NEET - many thanks to them for their collaboration.

Whilst we're on the subject of collaboration, we had a year of great events with BMES in 2012, despite the best efforts of the weather! We're planning a couple of new surprises in 2013 (watch this space), and you may already have seen the noticeboard we now share with them at the Cliffe Wood Avenue entrance.

One project that didn't come to fruition was the idea of turning the area formerly known as 'Wildsides' into a community space, that maintained a wildlife aspect as part of a wider community garden idea. I know this will have disappointed many of you who were keen to see something come out of the work that was started to reclaim that land over twenty years ago. However, we simply encountered too much disagreement to make anything viable, and the committee reluctantly took the decision to abandon our ideas in favour of putting our energy into other projects that are more likely to succeed.

On a more positive note, we'll shortly be completing our installation of our third and final noticeboard. It will be going up at the High Bank Lane end near the Golf Club. It joins the one in the play area, and the one shared with BMES at the Cliffe Wood Avenue entrance. They look a little sparse at the moment, but we are working on pulling together posters on what to look out for in each season, the events programme

for 2013, and other useful information. If anyone has any ideas for FoN-related information that could go in the noticeboards, please contact me. Remember, though, we only have the equivalent of 4 sheets of A4 to play with in each, so space is limited.

Finally, a couple of recurring pleas. We still have a vacancy on the committee for anyone who would be interested in helping with publicity, such as compiling the newsletter and letting people know about our activities via the press and other media. Now would be a good time to talk to us if you are interested, as there's plenty of time before the AGM. I'll emphasise that we have no great expectations about the time you can devote to helping - we are a voluntary group and understand that people only have so much time to spare. Also, we still need a couple of volunteers to be trained in basic first aid so we can increase the amount of cover we have for events and conservation activities. Please drop me a line if you are interested in either of these.

So, with Winter almost upon us, I wish you all the best for the coming season. I hope to see as many of you as can make it in January at our AGM and subsequent meeting to present our draft 5 year plan, and we'll continue to bump into some of you as we walk around the woods and enjoy the changing scenery.

Steve Bruzzese, Chair  
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## Membership Update and Email Newsletter Drive

A warm welcome to recent new and returning members:- Rachel, Philip, & Daniel Bell; Alex Bohdanowicz; Trudy Buckroyd; Laurie & Jennifer Connor; Nicole Earley; Martin & Lucie Fillingham; Peter & Liz Hansen; David & Carol Horsman; Helen Lealman; Lucinda Rapinczuk; Mary Robson; Ben Rothwell; Wendy Shackleton; Janice Thorp; Nick Trinder & family; Helen Walford; Christine Warner; Mrs E Webster; Stephen Wilkinson; Natasha Young.

Of our 166 members, just 17 have opted for email copies of the newsletter. Please can you contact me at [joanandmartin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:joanandmartin@tiscali.co.uk) if you would like to receive your newsletter by email rather than a paper copy? It's the environmentally friendly option, saves money on printing (and postage, if applicable), and allows your membership fee to be used exclusively to support conservation and events. Many thanks.

Joan Newman, Treasurer & Membership Secretary

## Forthcoming Events

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 7:00-9:00pm Shipley Club, Bradford Road Monthly Meeting (all welcome)

Come and join us to hear about current work, or if you have anything you want to raise.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00-12:00am Woodland Conservation - Beech Thinning  
& Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 10:00-12:00am

Meet by the bench at the golf club end, all welcome. No previous experience necessary - full guidance, as well as gloves and tools, will be provided on the day.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 6:30pm, Shipley Library Annual General Meeting  
followed by, at 7:30pm, Shipley Library Public Meeting

Come along to the AGM to get involved in the election of committee members, and other official annual business. If you have any nominations for the committee, or would like to nominate yourself, then please email us at [friendsofnorthcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnorthcliffe@gmail.com) or simply turn up on the day. The AGM will be followed by a public meeting at 7:30pm to canvass ideas and suggestions from members and the wider public for the long term plan for Northcliffe Park. It's your park, so please come along and have your say.

*Dates for you diary later in 2013*

30th March - Easter Fun Day

2nd June - Big Lunch

30th June - Rae Gala