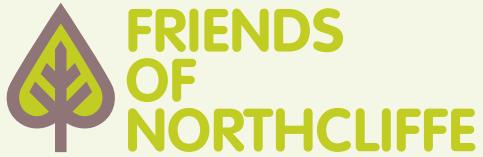




FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER
July 2013





NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to all those who responded to the request to let us know what you thought of the last Newsletter – Phil and I were delighted to hear from you and to learn that the majority of you liked the ‘New Look’. Some of the comments received can be read in the following pages.

Amongst the comments a suggestion was received that you may be interested in – a letters page. This could be an e-mail or a written note to me. Maybe you could tell us what you would like to see in your Newsletter, what you think of any of the meetings, events or conservation activities you have attended, or contribute an article (that would be really good). If you would like to send in photographs (please use as high a resolution as you can) that you have taken in Northcliffe, with a brief description of what you have taken and why, we would love to receive them (send to lizhansen@btinternet.com or to 10 Kendall Avenue, Shipley).

A lot of interesting things have been going on in Northcliffe since the last Newsletter. I hope you will enjoy reading about them in the following pages.

Liz Hansen
Editor



WELCOME

It has been a great year for events

Hi everyone, I do hope you’re enjoying the fine spell that has crept up on us after such a damp start to the year. The meadow, park and woods are all looking fabulous, and allotment holders are enjoying a much better growing season than last year.

We have had a great year for events so far. There’s more on our most successful Gala to date later in this issue, but we’ve also had walks, conservation sessions, a big lunch, a bio blitz and a natural play group every Monday. As ever, thanks to the people we collaborate with – our friends at Bradford Model Engineering Society (BMES), Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET) and Sponge Tree for all their help with putting on activities in Northcliffe, and to Northcliffe Allotment Society for the loan of their clubhouse for events such as the Cream Teas. And a big thank you to all our fantastic volunteers who help make all of this happen, whether it’s pulling balsam, rattling buckets, erecting gazebos or filling sweetie jars! You know who you are; we couldn’t do it without you.

We have ventured into the world of social media, and now have a Twitter account (@FriendsNcliffe) and a Facebook page. This is helping us reach many folk who we otherwise wouldn’t speak to. For example, in the run up to the Gala, we reached over 16,000 people on Twitter. Eight out of ten people in the UK had access to the internet in the first quarter of 2012, and of those, over two thirds used Facebook (Ofcom Communications Market Report 2012).



I know there are a number of current members who don't like social media, but to keep in touch with our members of tomorrow, and secure the long term future of FoN, this is a place we need to be.

We're still on the lookout for people who can help with publicity. After chatting with a couple of folk on Facebook, they think we might have more success if we ask for help with smaller tasks. So, if you can do any of the following, please get in touch – phone/email newspapers/radio stations with details of events, produce notices for our noticeboards, create flyers for distribution at events and elsewhere, or anything else you can think of that will promote our activities. Email me if any of these appeal to you, or if there is anything else you would like to do to help – steveburzeese@yahoo.co.uk

We are appealing for help from any bakers amongst you who could provide goodies for the Cream Teas on Sunday 21st July. If you can donate a cake or some scones please contact Hugh (01274 594 109 or h.firman@btinternet.com).

We have now got all of our noticeboards in operation, and the playground is in great shape after the wettest winter for many a year. The Parks Department have been working really hard, as you can see by the beautifully arranged rockeries on Cliffe Wood Drive, and the pathway up to the miniature railway, that has been cleared of debris that slipped down the hill. You'll also see a new octagonal planter appear in the field, where the two picnic benches are, just as soon as Bradford Urban Garden releases it. We were one of a number of voluntary groups who were successful in securing a planter to recycle once construction of Westfield gets underway.

The playground and the bird feeding area both continue to attract visitors to Northcliffe (both human and avian). It's really nice to chat to people, and hear that they've come to Northcliffe because someone else has told them about the fantastic playground and feeding area. We have a great space here for people to enjoy, and it appears that more people are coming to enjoy it.

Have a great summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings, events and conservation activities.

Steve Burzeese
Chair



What our Members think of the 'New Look' Friends Newsletter. The majority were delighted with the last edition of the Newsletter and below is a selection of what some members thought:

"Well done on your newsletter which looks good, is easy to follow and has lots of info in. I like the snow photo and in fact all the photos help bring the woods to life."

"Like the new format and it is always interesting to read."

"The new look newsletter and membership form are brilliant. Very impressive indeed."

"I really like the new format, modern and easy to read. Great work"

"Like the fact that the print is all the same size from page to page."

"I gave one to a friend on Thursday and Friday she paid as a new member!"

"I thought it was fantastic! It opened for me fine in the A5 format, showing full page as normal. I really like the new design layout, looks very professional and easy to read. I normally just skim through the content to see if there is anything relevant to my work. Due to the new layout and articles, it drew me in and I read the whole newsletter! It was packed full of news, beautiful photography (as always) and interesting new features. You don't always hear when things are right, so thought I'd just let you know my personal opinion.

Hopefully it will entice more people to join your blooming group! Much Thanks." (Susy Feltham, Technical Officer Design , Bradford MDC Sport & Leisure Services)

And an e-mail received from one of the people who helped to set up FoN:

"What a fantastic job! It's fresh looking, easy on the eye and very readable. Ann's feature was really interesting and I also enjoyed Nick's piece and the 'interview' with Sean Gardner..."

While talking to two dog walkers in the woods we met Nick Trinder with his dog. He is their vet and so when they heard that he had done an article for the newsletter they were interested to know more. They asked, warily, about the cost of subs and had expected individual membership to be in double figures!"

There were one or two comments about readability and colour – we can help with any problems reading on screen if you don't know how to change the size, just drop us an email. There was also one comment about the size of the images – unavoidable in the A5 copy, but easy to see in the electronic version.



CONSERVATION NEWS

By Julia Pearson
Conservation Officer

At the time of writing we are half way through the summer programme of Himalayan balsam control, and have had a thorough go at a few distinct patches of this invasive, non-native plant. Left unchecked this plant can reduce biodiversity by about 25% by crowding out native woodland species. We have had a couple of group sessions and have had welcome help from Woodcraft Folk. The remaining scheduled sessions are on Tuesday 23rd July at 7pm and Saturday 10th August at 10am, both meeting at the railway. It has been surprisingly dry this summer and this is reflected in the water level of the pond. The autumn conservation work will focus upon removing some of the leaf litter from the limited zones that we hope might be able to sustain some water through the summer. However, we are following the principle of making the most of what we have; we have no control over the water levels up stream and trying to create a larger pond by severe dredging will have an adverse ecological impact.

I know the pond causes concern for some people so I hope the following general overview of the ecology of ponds can offer some reassurance that the fluctuating and muddy scene we witness can offer a valuable wildlife habitat.

It is a myth that ponds need to maintain a stable level of water in order to be good for wildlife. The seasonal fluctuation is a predictable event and the drawdown zone, the muddy area exposed in the summer months, can be a rich wildlife habitat. Some invertebrates synchronise their life-cycle with the increasingly drying



mud, for example the Southern Hawker dragonfly can lay its eggs in the mud to avoid predation by fish. Snails, spiders and ground beetles use the damp pond edge, and small mammals will eat insects trapped in the mud. The grass growing into the edge of the pond can offer a great habitat for newts. Some annual wetland plants need bare or sparsely vegetated mud to grow, and the seeds of some marginal (edge of the pond) plants such as rushes and sedges need exposure to air in order to germinate. About 50% of pond plants and animals are tolerant of drought conditions.

The shallow edges of ponds are the richest zone for wildlife, in particular the depth of between 2 and 10cm. This zone offers protection to the pond creatures. About 70% of the larger aquatic animals, for example beetles, bugs and snails, are surface breathers – therefore in shallow water they require less movement to get to the surface.

Most woodland ponds will develop a specialised selection of species, adapted to the shady conditions. Dead logs can be a favoured egg laying site for the Brown Hawker dragonfly and aquatic beetle larvae can eat decaying wood and algae growing on submerged logs. Some caddis fly larvae use leaf litter or twigs to construct the cases that they use to protect their soft bodies. Rotting leaves also provide food for detritivores such as water shrimps. I feel that our pond does still need some help in order to create the wildlife-rich pond we want, and that may be possible. It is natural for ponds to gradually change as they fill with sediment to become more marsh than pond, but we want to manage it in its ‘mid-succession’ phase – ie some open water (flow permitting) and a range of native vegetation, which we may still need to encourage. But perhaps we also need to learn to love the mud, as well as the pond life that has adapted to it; the house martins nesting at The Shipley Club (and elsewhere) may be relying on it for their nests.

Rae Gala 2013

By Mel Buzzese

This years warm weather meant hundreds of people from the local community could enjoy the relaxed and traditional feel of the Rae Gala, and what a treat we put on for you again this year.



Hall Royd Brass Band put on a spectacular performance for us after an emotional opening by Sue Hope of St. Paul's Church in Shipley. Many of you will have seen your children join in with Rainbow Morris who always brighten up the Gala with their beautiful colours, music and dance. And let's not forget the delightful performance from the children of Stars Stage School and Jenny Bigland's music students.

Many parents were delighted to capture photographs of their children high in the driving seat of the Fire Engine brought to you courtesy of Shipley Fire Service. Friends of Northcliffe would like to give a special thanks to the staff for taking time out to bring so much pleasure to the children in the local community.

After being entertained by music and dance, collecting lots of information, relaxing with an Indian head massage, eating delicious food and collecting your sweets tombola prize, you will have made your way past the owl man, and to the miniature railway for a wonderful ride on the trains. This will have been followed by the relaxed stroll past the Acoustic North Stage, and entering into the creative fun field for children and adults alike.

You had the delights of Sponge Tree making hedgehogs with clay and natural materials. Hive gave you an opportunity to make very colourful felt brooches, and if you fancied a go, you could help create the willow lanterns for Lister Park lantern walk due to take

place in October. If that wasn't enough for you to entertain yourselves and your children, we gave you an opportunity to bet on the ferret racing, get your face painted, hook a duck or just chill out in the den and listen to stories. Oh, and not to forget the children's races run by Mel and Caitlin (who participated in every race), giving an exciting way to get your children tired on a Sunday afternoon. All in all, a wonderful day, with everyone enjoying the relaxed feel to our annual event.



Friends of Northcliffe would like to give a special thanks to all of our volunteers, Sean Gardner for his hard work on the day, Bradford Council for providing gazebos, St. Pauls for providing tables and chairs, local businesses for providing raffle prizes, all our stall holders, volunteers and entertainers on the day. We would especially like to thank you, the local community, for supporting us with our events.

To find out how you can get involved in our future events please contact Melanie Buzzese (details on back page).

What does Northcliffe mean to...

Harvey Bishop

By Liz Hansen



Liz asked 5 year old Harvey about his experiences visiting Northcliffe and here are his answers! (As verbatim as possible!)

How many times have you been to Northcliffe?

One hundred with mum and dad, one thousand with Liz and one hundred thousand million with Liz, Peter and Otis. (Ed – Seems a lot to me for a five year old!)

When you go to Northcliffe what things do you enjoy doing?

Running in the woods and climbing on tree trunks on the ground. Running through the wood with Otis (Liz and Peter's dog) but I am sad now because he died. Seeing the flowers.

What flowers have you seen?
Lots, two and three-quarters.

Can you remember the names of any of the flowers you have seen?
Daffodils, Bluebells...

Do you go to the Adventure Playground?
Yes.



"Saucer is fun and makes me dizzy. Like getting dizzy and falling over in mud – it's fun."

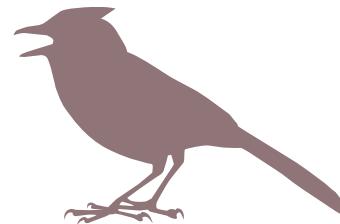
Saw people on tennis courts. Go on swings and slide at top – like that as well.

Thanks Harvey and I hope I have put in the pictures of you that you wanted.



NORTHCLIFFE NATURE NOTES

By Lisa Chadwick-Firman



The weather may be seasonally cool but we have never had so many baby birds in the garden (written before the good weather of July).

It may be cool as I write this but we have had some beautiful evenings and glorious sunsets. Last year I had some amazing encounters in Northcliffe: There seems to be an increasing number of deer in Old Spring Wood in particular. I have seen footprints at the end of Lynton Drive. We have often seen them here on an evening when we were watching the baby owls. They were even seen on the grass below our garden, above the synagogue, in broad daylight! Sadly, I missed them on that occasion. The deer seem to particularly like the meadow. I often see them grazing there.

One evening I had an amazingly close encounter with a roe buck. I was standing in the meadow above Old Spring Woods, watching the sunset, when a deer emerged from the woods. I froze, he wandered towards me; I hardly breathed! A cloud of midges were swarming around my head but I chose to ignore them as one move from me and the deer would have gone.

He was walking straight towards me, grazing occasionally as he went. He could see me, but as I was down wind, he could not smell me. It was fantastic watching him battle with his mixed emotions of fear and curiosity, as he walked hesitantly towards me. His head nodding as he sniffed the air to try to catch my scent; which, luckily for me, evaded him until he was only a few feet away from me. I stood stock still; the cloud of midges getting denser! Sadly, eventually the wind turned and he caught my scent – he was off; leaping gazelle like into the woods where he melted away into the greenery, as if he had never really been there at all. What an amazing experience and all just on our doorstep!

We also saw a family of fox cubs in Old Spring Woods, on our evening jaunts. The meadows were glorious in high summer. I spent most evenings up there. There was an amazing number of fascinating moths which hovered over the grasses as if they were on invisible strings – they looked like tiny angels



fluttering above the meadow. They were ghost moths. Although, I preferred to call them angel moths! The bats were amazing too on the light evenings. If I stood between the meadows and the trees I had fantastic views of them as they like to fly up and down these corridors; performing amazing acrobatic feats as they catch their insect prey. I was rather torn though, when they went after my beautiful 'angel' moths!

On 28th June we led an evening walk to watch the bats and those amazing moths. A friend of ours came up and installed a moth trap, for the evening, that uses a very bright light to attract the moths inside. They were released later, after we had a closer look at them. The bats were great, swooping and diving to lots of 'ooohs' and 'ahhhs' – just like watching a fireworks display! There were less ghost moths than we saw last year, probably because it is still rather cold for the time of year. The group saw two hedgehogs as they walked back to the car park, which is great as hedgehogs are really struggling; I have hardly seen any this year. If you have a visiting hedgehog,

please appreciate it and feed it; cat and dog food or an egg is best but definitely NOT milk and bread as this is very bad for them.

Whilst walking across the meadow the other day, Hugh and I discovered orchids (wow!) which are only there as a result of leaving the meadow to its own devices, and not cutting the grass. The number of species of flowers is increasing annually. The bit of meadow near us is full of lesser stitchwort, germander speedwell and yellow rattle, along with the glorious buttercups. I love the subtle beauty of the grasses. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the Council for managing this area as a hay meadow. It is simply beautiful and I, for one, appreciate living here so much more. It reminds me of my childhood in the country.

I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the Northcliffe wildlife. Don't miss the meadow, which looks stunning just now.

Northcliffe Bird Feeding Area

By Joan Newman

This area between the two sets of allotments is a success despite some set backs – like a squirrel eating its way through a plastic dustbin to find food and giving both of us a fright when we lifted the lid. Work is ongoing. Mud was a problem but thanks to the Council Parks folk a large supply of chippings has made the area more approachable.



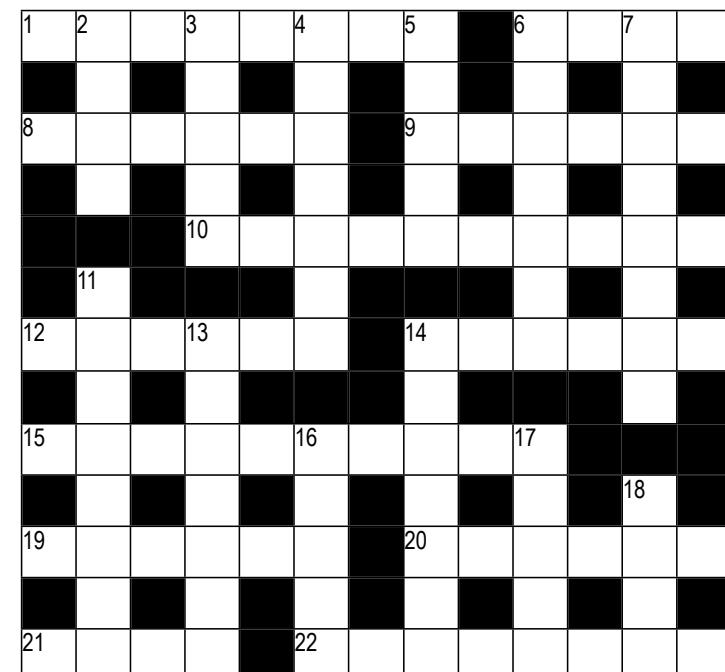
Since the last newsletter we have added a tawny owl and blackcap to the species of birds seen. Folk have been excited to see birds close to hand, especially bullfinches. Please let us know if you see other birds and wildlife.

For the summer period we are not feeding so much while there is enough natural food available, but we are fortunate to have money available, from kind members, to feed more during the winter.

Feeding rota

Volunteers are still needed for filling feeders. Please contact Hugh Firman, Deputy Chair, 01274 594 109 or email h.firman@btinternet.com if you are able to help.

NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD No. 4



Across

1. A tree like this would die (8)
6. Really good in cornets (4)
8. Weighing apparatus climbs (6)
9. One of the colours of the rainbow (6)
10. Occasional noise in the sky (5,5)
12. A fruit tree not found at Northcliffe (6)
14. Lent is reformed to pay attention (6)
15. Where children have fun, actively (10)
19. And air turned for letting out water (1,5)
20. Nonsense, starting with 17 down (6)
21. Coloured, fatally? (4)
22. Cliffe Wood Avenue end of the woods (8)

Down

2. Cone turns a single time (4)
3. Lit up – mixed up for a spring flower (5)
4. Extreme joy (7)
5. Wines turn into pigs (5)
6. Not outside (7)
7. The operator of a railway locomotive? (7)
11. May Day is an example (1,7)
13. Red yarn entangles Mr Fox (7)
14. A changed red soul where miracle cures occur (7)
16. Reins tangle to get rid of soap suds (5)
17. Golfers and motorists do this (5)
18. Small valley with tree-clad sides (4)

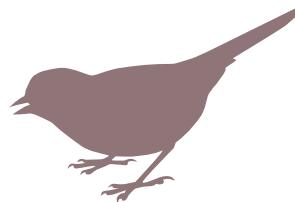
The answers can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Composed by Douglas Lumb and Joan Newman



WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz



I AM A LITTLE DEER.
A LITTLE BROWN ROE DEER.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN
ME IN NORTHCLIFFE WOODS
BUT I AM OFTEN THERE.

I am shy and secretive and keep well away from human visitors. If I see you, I 'freeze' – just like you do when you play musical statues. After a moment or two I leap away into the undergrowth. You may hear the light rustle of twigs and even spot my white rump – but then I'll be gone.

I've seen some other creatures that stand really still just like I do. Some are green and some are black and they live on the field and at the edge of the wood. I've never seen one move at all – they just stand and stand and stand with their mouths wide open. Have you seen them? My Mum calls them 'litter bins'. She says they like to eat plastic bags and bottles, crisp packets and sweetie wrappers and things like that. And she says that visitors – like you – can feed them. That's why they stand there all day and night with their mouths wide open.

I think that's a good thing. Once, I cut my foot on some broken glass. It hurt at the time but it's better now. If the visitor who left the glass bottle in the woods had known about feeding the Litter Bin that wouldn't have happened.

I'd like to feed the Binny Things myself. But, of course, I can't do that because I'm only a little deer. A little brown roe deer.



FACTS ABOUT KIDS, FOR KIDS

1

The little roe deer, also known as a kid, lives in a small family group with his mum (a doe), sometimes his dad (a buck) and his brother or sister.

2

The kids (or fawns) are born in May or June.

3

A deer's coat is reddish brown in summer but a duller grey brown in the winter.

4

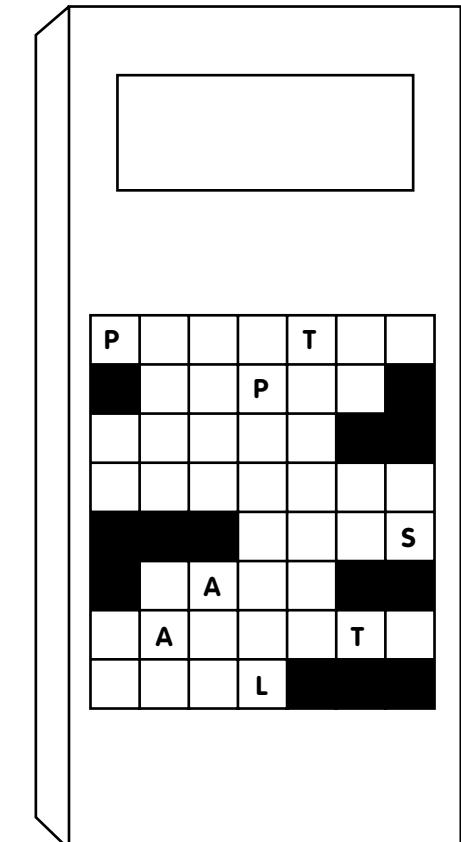
Roe deer like to eat grass, berries, leaves and shoots. Sometimes they cause damage to trees by eating the bark.

5

Deer are ruminants, like cows. This means they can quickly swallow lots of food then go to a quiet place to enjoy it in safety.

Fit the following words into the 'litter bin'.

BAGS
GLASS
PLASTIC
FOIL
PAPER
CANS
PACKETS
BOTTLES



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS APRIL – MARCH 2013

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Miss J Cowie and Mrs L Leather, two members who sadly passed away in the last few months.

Welcome to the following new members:
Adele Atwood, Sara Cooper and Stephen Hutchings, Jen Dyer, Sue Garrett, Mark and Helen Lainchbury, Gloria Madeley, Jennifer Madeley, Ann Mainman, Ian, Philippa and Isadora McCann, Margaret and Brian McKeown, Linda and Richard Melsom, Jonathan and Maria Mullin, Jenny Shackleton, Ann Shaw, David Smith and Jean Crabtree, Paula Taylor, Sally and Jim Traynor, Val Turner, Barbara and Bill Turnpenny.

P W and J Ditchfield, Tom Rumsey and Heidi Smith have moved out of the area, so we wish them all the best and thank them for being members whilst they lived locally.

Subscriptions have come in well during the last few months, with many donations towards the general fund and particularly for bird food. Thank you.

Currently we have 184 memberships. However there are about 20% of people still to renew their subscription for this year.

Subscriptions remain the same for this year:

Individuals £4

Family £6

Concessions £3

Family concessions £5

Send your details on the membership form, with cash or a cheque made payable to Friends of Northcliffe, to:

Joan Newman

Treasurer

42 Moorhead Crescent

Shipley

BD18 4LQ

EVENTS

Tuesday 23rd July 7.00pm

Saturday 10th August 10.00am

Himalayan Balsam Pulling

We will meet at the miniature railway but the focus of our work will be in the zone between the pond, the top path by the golf course and the steps leading up to this path. Please wear suitable footwear for working on the hillside. Gloves will be provided.

Every Monday in July

Monday 12th August 10.15 to 11.30am

Saplings Outdoor Nature Play Group with Sponge Tree

Outdoor nature playgroup for children under 5 years and their carers. Come and get closer to nature and the elements and let your children explore and discover in a woodland setting.

These sessions are designed for your little ones to get messy and creative.

Meet by the old play area up the hill next to the cricket pitch. £2 per child, more info from Nicola 07914 495 626 or Paula 07914 389 726.

Sunday 27th October 2.00pm to dusk Halloween Special

Ride the Halloween miniature steam trains and create your lantern in time for the Northcliffe Halloween lantern walk at dusk. Check the website for updates.

Friday 25th October

Pond and path management day working alongside BEES volunteers

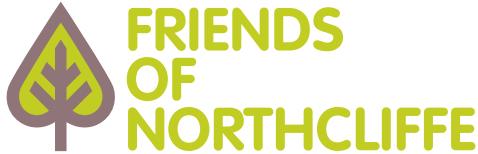
Meet at the railway at 10.15am, working through until about 3.30pm. Come dressed for the mud. Bring lunch. Hot drinks provided and all tools provided.

Every 3rd Thursday of each month

7.00pm Planning Meeting

Come and join us at the Shipley Club to have your say in what we are up to, and contribute your ideas.





CONTACT DETAILS:

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General Enquiries: friendsofnorthcliffe@gmail.com

Website: www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk

Answers to Crossword no 4

Across: 1 Rootless, 6 Ices, 8 Scales, 9 Indigo, 10 Plane sound, 12 Cherry, 14 Listen, 15 Playground, 19 A drain, 20 Drivel, 21 Dyed, 22 Easterly

Down: 2 Once, 3 Tulip, 4 Ecstasy, 5 Swine, 6 Inside, 7 Engineer, 11 A holiday, 13 Reynard, 14 Lourdes, 16 Rinse, 17 Drive, 18 Dell

Design
Phil Morrison