



FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER
July 2014



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Reading all the reports I can't believe how much has happened since the last edition of the Newsletter. In April we received 2 letters from long-standing members who no longer live in the area but continue to support the Friends of Northcliffe – thank you for your support and kind words to the Committee; we appreciate it.

Thanks to all those who do contribute to the Newsletter on a regular basis but I would really like some members to contact me with articles and pictures or suggestions for articles for future editions of the Newsletter before my mind becomes a total blank. Somebody did suggest a letters page and I did mention this in the July 2013 Newsletter but nobody responded – do I assume this means that a letters page is not wanted or has everybody thought that's a good idea but just not bothered to do anything about it? Either e-mail me – lizhansen@btinternet.com – or put something through the letter box of 10 Kendall Avenue, Shipley, I would love to hear from you. Thanks also to Phil Morrison for all the time he puts into the design of the Newsletters. The next Newsletter will be in the Autumn.

Liz Hansen
Editor

WELCOME



I'm writing this as England exit the World Cup – sad for England, but great for getting people out and about again! It's a fantastic time of year to be enjoying the outdoors while the days are long, and Northcliffe's a great place to spend some time. You can get away from it all in the woods, burn off some energy playing sport, or enjoy the lovely views up on the meadow.

I can't believe we're almost halfway through the year already. And what a year – it's been our busiest to date, by far. There's so much to be proud of – we have a comprehensive conservation programme, a series of events to suit all ages, and some great partners to work with to deliver it all. The hard work is done by the committee, as well as the numerous volunteers who help us out as often as they can. Everyone leads such busy lives, and I'd like to thank the committee and all our active members for continuing to drive everything we do with such commitment. On that note, I'm really pleased to welcome Val Harris to the committee. Val has been co-opted onto the committee to run the Heritage Project on behalf of Friends of Northcliffe. Val has enormous experience in applying for funding, and a passion for the type of work that the Heritage Working Party would like to carry out. The Heritage work will be Val's sole focus on the committee, and we're really grateful to Val, as her appointment ensures that FoN continue to be involved. Some of you may already be aware that John Bromley has ended his involvement with the Working Group since he became a Grandfather.

Congratulations, John, and thanks for all you did to get the project going. Special thanks are also due to Derek Barker and Tony Woods for leading the Heritage walks in Northcliffe earlier this year, and to Steve Angus for producing a community video on Northcliffe. The video can be viewed on the Kirkgate Centre's website, on the Friends of Northcliffe page.





Our Twitter presence goes from strength to strength – we recently reached 250 followers! I try and tweet as often as I can, and we have some regular contributors of photos and comments. Facebook is less successful, as it probably requires more management. All I do at the moment is set it to publish whatever goes out on Twitter, so if there is anyone out there who fancies being a page administrator and making it more dynamic, just let me know. And if you use Twitter or Facebook and haven't followed or liked us yet, then what are you waiting for?

You can read more about how membership is doing later on in this issue. However, I would like to extend my sincere condolences on behalf of the committee to the family and friends of Maurice Porter, Elisabeth Shepherd and Norman Arthur Woodhead OBE, MC. Joan Newman, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, tells us more about them in her article.

It's always sad to hear of the passing of any of our members, and I'm grateful they chose to be a part of what we do.

Wildlife walks, the Big Lunch, Easter Bunny's picnic, balsam bashing, kite Sunday and many other things besides – if you haven't been to anything yet, that's just a flavour of what you're missing. There's lots more to come in the second half of the year, many of the events in conjunction with our good friends at Bradford Model Engineering Society. Keep your eye on the noticeboards for developments if you're not on email, as there will be news about events later in the year that we aren't quite ready to communicate yet.

I hope you all have a great summer. Enjoy Northcliffe and all it has to offer, and remember that by using it, you're helping ensure it remains a place of beauty and enjoyment for many generations to come.

Steve Bruzzese



We are currently in the middle of the FoN summer conservation activities – the removal of Himalayan balsam.

This is restricted to June, July and August – when the plants are big enough to handle and before the seeds form and are distributed by the very effective catapult action of the ripe pods.

We know we are having an impact in some areas, though it is disappointing to see the re-establishment of the balsam near the pond, an area we had under control. Just goes to show the value of return visits to capture the stragglers.

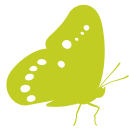


Before



After





We have also made a second attempt to make one of the very muddy sections of paths in Old Spring Wood passable. We were joined by Rick Hill, Countryside Officer Bradford Council, and under his guidance we replaced the clayey soil with stone to aid drainage. We are up against the water emerging from the springs which gave the wood its name, so will have to monitor the issue.

Last year nearly 80 volunteers were involved in the practical conservation management of Northcliffe Woods. I asked some of the people I have met at the regular FoN sessions or the occasional BEES volunteer days why they got involved in environmental volunteering.

“When I retired I wanted to spend as much time as possible out of doors. By volunteering to do tasks such as clearing the pond and maintaining the footpaths I have been able to make a lot of new friends from all age groups. Volunteering has been good for my health, both physical and mental.”

“Mainly to spend time in nice places with nice people making those places even nicer.”

“For me it was a case of having time on my hands and wanting to do something worthwhile, not work related, outdoors and good exercise, preferably environmental. BEES was a perfect fit.”

“I find working in the outdoors really rewarding no matter what the weather! It feels like I’m putting something back for the planet, and it is fun. It feels particularly rewarding in our local area as you can feel proud knowing that you’ve played a part in looking after it.”

I would probably get as many answers as the number of people I ask.

I love to see the expanse of bluebells and wild garlic while walking in the woods, and I am pleased to be able to contribute to managing the woodland with these in mind. But I also like the opportunity volunteering gives me to pause and look more closely; spotting the Wild Angelica, Wood Sorrel, Climbing Corydalis (which I have only just found!), Artist’s Bracket fungus and ferns on the hillside while pulling balsam. Research shows that Himalayan balsam can reduce biodiversity by up to 25%, so knowing there is a good range of other plants beneath their shade gives added impetus to its removal.



Do you want to get involved?

Check the events page to see if there are any remaining balsam dates this summer, or keep an eye out for future work. We will be clearing the pond in October and thinning beech saplings between November and February. Future dates are in this newsletter, and will also appear on posters and reminders to members by email. When attending conservation events please wear strong footwear. Gloves will be provided but you might wish to bring midge repellent!

1 person*, 25 mins, 16 secs
(it didn't feel so long!),
981 plants removed.

On average 700 seeds produced per plant, so 686,700 less seeds to germinate from a short spell of pulling.

Together we can make a difference!

*Other than the obvious plants alongside the path, please don't undertake balsam pulling on your own; the slopes are steep and slippery.



ON THE RUN



Liz Hansen asked Jan Pollard what she felt Northcliffe offered runners

What do a World and Olympic Triathlete Champion, a Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist and a Three Peaks Course Record Holder all have in common? The answer is Northcliffe Playing Fields.

Seems a strange connection but all of these great champions, at some time in their careers, took part in the Bradford Schools' Cross Country Races and the West Yorkshire Schools' Cross Country Championships, which were held at Northcliffe Playing Fields. (Ed – Do you know who these runners are/were? Answers at the end.)

When Bradford Schools' Athletic Association were looking for a venue to stage their annual cross country races they needed somewhere that would offer a varied terrain that was different to the standard, boring school playing field. Northcliffe offered such a course. This would be a course which would prepare athletes for any future challenge they might have. It was known as one of the toughest courses on the West Yorkshire Schools circuit, especially when the wind and rain were driving across the open hillside. On some occasions that rain turned very quickly to sleet and snow! The athletes would have long steep inclines to test their fitness, the beautiful woodland offered respite from the elements and the opportunity to get your breath back.



It also gave pretty good cover for the not so fit (the ones who had been pulled in to make up the team), allowing them time for a short walk, hidden from the sight of their teacher by the cover of trees! Once out of the woods the hard work started again until the top of the park was reached, then it was time to let loose and fly! Downhill all the way back to the finish, unless you were doing two or three laps of course and then you had to start again, only this time you knew what was in store!

When the weather was wet the ground quickly became very boggy, particularly by the allotment wall, hundreds of pairs of feet ploughing through the mud and churning up the surface. On these wet days it was not unusual to see many a youngster running in the latter stages of the race with no shoes. These had often been sucked off in the quagmire earlier on the course but amazingly these young athletes did not let the 'small' problem of no shoes stop them. They would continue valiantly in their socks to the end and arrive in the finishing funnel to applause and cheers – worth every minute!



Over the decades, thousands of school children have started (or finished), their athletic careers in this picturesque area of Shipley. It can be a testing environment, particularly when the bad weather comes sweeping across the valley. On those days when the sun shone, the views were great and for some children, it was the nearest they had ever been to countryside. Whatever the weather, it was always a great spectacle, watching hundreds of youngsters striving to be the best they could be, not giving up and finishing the race. A lesson in life but in a great setting.

Jan has been a coach for Juniors at Bingley Harriers, a committee member of the Bradford and West Yorkshire Schools, managed the Bradford Girls' Team at the West Yorkshires and she did manage the West Yorkshire Girls Team at the English Schools' Cross country for a couple of years.

Answers:
Alaister Brownlee, Stevie Binns c.m.
and Andy Peace



NORTHCLIFFE BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

By Joan Newman

Thank you to all the team who regularly fill up the feeders at our feeding station, and to those who have donated money and food for the project. Since the last picture of birds seen the following need to be added to the notice board: a great spotted woodpecker, a bullfinch and a female pheasant.



Illustration of Bullfinches by Benjamin Pine

WHAT'S ON? 2014 EVENTS DIARY



JULY

Tuesday 22nd
Balsam Pulling – meet at bench near golf club

Sunday 27th
10am – 4pm
BMES Diesel Day
Rides available
Meet at Miniature Railway

AUGUST

Sunday 3rd
2pm – 4pm
Arts Trail Project
Meet at Miniature Railway

Wednesday 20th
2pm – 4pm
Children's History Mystery
Treasure hunt
Meet at Miniature Railway

Tuesday 19th
Balsam Pulling – meet at bench near golf club

Please note that all events are subject to change without prior notice.

SEPTEMBER

TBC Big Screen Film
In The Park

Saturday 27th
11am onwards
Health & Fitness Event
Meet at Play Area

OCTOBER

Saturday 18th
Sponge Tree Autumn
Collograph printing

Sunday 26th
Lantern workshops

There's always plenty of events and activities happening up in the woods so check out our notice boards or visit us at www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk for all future events.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st
4pm onwards
Lantern Parade
Meeting places
community specific
Finish at Northcliffe Park

DECEMBER

Sunday 14th
Christmas Special
Meet at Miniature Railway

Saturday 20th
Winter Solstice Bird
Watching / Feeding

Saturday 27th
12.30pm – dusk
BMES
Mince Pie Steam Up



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

APRIL 2014 – MARCH 2015

As of mid June our memberships are up to 182, with 133 folk already paid for this year. 69 families have opted for e-mail only newsletters.

Our condolences to the family and friends of the following members who have died:

Maurice Porter – a supporter with his wife Joan since 2010. Joan died last year and Maurice in 2014. Their daughter and husband continue to support FoN.

Elisabeth Shepherd – a member with her husband Bill since 2011. Bill continues his membership.

Norman Arthur Woodhead OBE, MC, (Sir H Norman Rae's grandson) – died January 13th 2014 aged 96. He reopened the Extension of Shipley Hospital, after refurbishment, on September 4th 1996, exactly 73 years after the original opening by HRH Princess Mary. Norman was a generous supporter of FoN. His niece, Margaret Dilke, has indicated that she would like to be kept in touch with FoN.

New members

We welcome several new or renewing members: Emma & David Bishop & family, Mark & Lydia Drake, Mark Fielding, Katie & Alex Jones, Mike Kane, Asima Ramzan, Ian Watson, Tim & Seth Clark, and Laura Ashworth.

The following members have left the area:
Maggie & Will Mitchell, who were members for 4 years.

Subscriptions have remained the same for this year:

Individuals £4
Family £6
Concessions £3
Family concessions £5

Send your details with cash or a cheque made payable to Friends of Northcliffe to:

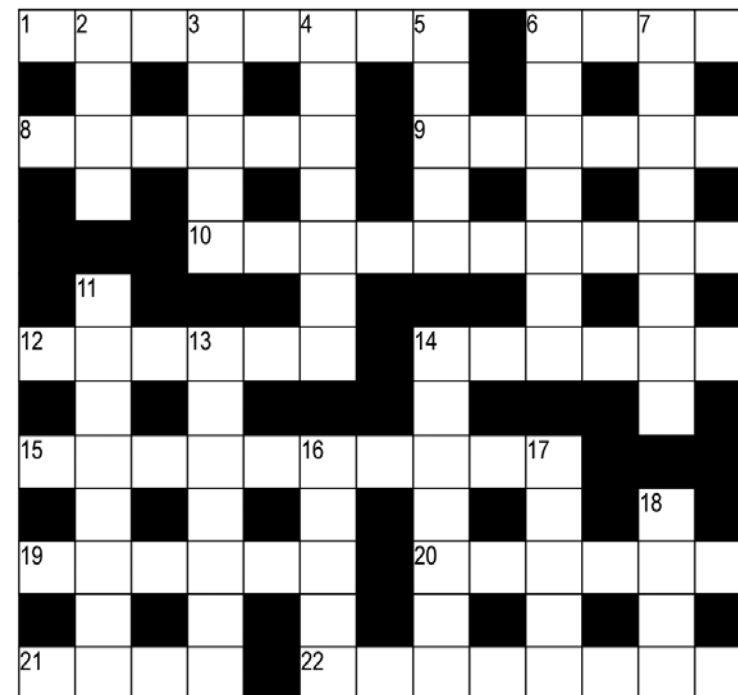
Joan Newman
Treasurer
42 Moorhead Crescent
Shipley
BD18 4LQ

Again we ask you to think about donations as these helped us considerably last year, especially towards bird food for the feeding station, as well as to general funds.

A membership form is included with this newsletter.

NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD

No. 7



Across

- Seeds, worms, insects etc (4,4)
- Young deer (4)
- The UK's favourite birds (6)
- High ground (6) or the opposite direction to the way a river runs (2,4)
- Northcliffe has lots of these to form a canopy (5,5)
- Northcliffe was given to the of Shipley (6)
- Fruit of the horse chestnut (6)
- A person from Yorkshire, Durham, Cumbria etc (10)
- A description of an allotment holder (6)
- Approve, prefer, goodwill (6)
- Description of the appearance of wet grass in early morning (4)
- Ned's rash change could mean difficulty, or a harness with an old penny (8)

Down

- It colours orange the water in a stream (4)
- Used sometimes to plant seeds (5)
- Watch (7)
- A plum is an example (5)
- Popular activity for fit folk on Yorkshire hills (4,3)
- Were darn to be altered it would be a happy roamer – as in the song title (8)
- Rescue or turning to supply something of value (8)
- Walk on this between the trees (7)
- If crone changes there is a type of evergreen tree (7)
- Third planet from the sun (5)
- UK's largest corvid (5)
- Creepy crawlies (4)

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

Composed by Douglas Lumb and Joan Newman



NORTHCLIFFE NATURE NOTES

By Lisa Chadwick-Firman



As I write this, I am enjoying the beautiful song of a male White Throat, whilst watching the fledglings feeding! The juvenile male is trying to get to grips with his new found voice!

Am I on holiday, in some wonderful location in the Dales? In fact, I am in our own garden, on the edge of Old Springs Woods, which are, of course part of our glorious Northcliffe!

White Throats love the woodland edge and scrubby areas. Thanks to the Council for not over managing the areas at the bottom of our gardens as we have a good area of scrub that provides an excellent corridor for the wildlife and the birds. Also, over the years, we have improved our own patch of habitat to attract birds and wildlife – lots of native planting now paying off! This year we have had an amazing variety of birds feeding and breeding in our garden:



White Throats, for the first time, Chiff Chaff, Black Caps, Garden Warblers and Gold Crests along with all the regulars and increasingly rare, the good old Sparrows and Starlings. Now the garden is full of “peep peeps” of those fledglings, as are the woods in Northcliffe of course! Last night, Oyster Catchers were flying around overhead, calling noisily! These are one of my all-time favourites and a bird of the Dales! We see increasingly more Jays locally, which I love, and cheeky Jackdaws, and a few crows which delight me with their antics and conversations!

What benefits we are already reaping from the council’s wise decision to save carbon and leave the meadow on the top of Northcliffe to grow! What a glorious sight this is all summer long! From the shimmering gold swathes of buttercups (Ed – As evidenced on the front cover) to the softly, swaying grasses. The number of orchids has increased here too. Uncommon plants such as the Yellow Rattle, usually found in those stunning meadows in the Dales, are also thriving!

Those who ventured out on the glorious evening of the summer solstice were treated to an amazing display of Ghost Moths, as well as the more usual bats and an incredible number of male Song Thrushes singing late into the evening. Ghost Moths are uncommon, but NOT in Northcliffe! We were rather concerned that they had not appeared by 10pm but our patience was rewarded; by 10.20pm we were seeing the first male appear hovering over the grass heads to attract the ladies! The female Ghost Moth is much larger and brown, but equally beautiful. Over the next few minutes, there was lots of excitement as more and more moths appeared. There must be 1,000s over the entire meadow! Northcliffe may well be one of the largest colonies of these beautiful moths in Yorkshire, all thanks to the council for saving carbon and not mowing the grass! What benefits we are reaping! Nature is surely breathing a sigh of relief and saying, “Thank you!”





RAE GALA 2014

By Melanie Bruzzese

The sun shone on Northcliffe this year, bringing hundreds of people from the local community together to enjoy the relaxed and traditional feel of the Rae Gala – described by many as Shipley's very own Glastonbury.

What a treat we had for you again this year. Hall Royd Brass Band put on another spectacular performance for us after a heart felt opening by Rev Sarah Gill of St Paul's Church in Shipley. We introduced you to the All For One Choir, giving you their debut performance, a network of community choir groups across Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Being part of a choir is a fantastic way to enjoy singing while making new friends.

All For One meet in Victoria Hall, Saltaire at 7.30 pm every Thursday night in term time and are looking for new members; please pop along to a rehearsal and try it out if you enjoy singing.



Stars Stage School captivated the audience once again with their delightful routines – a variety of dance classes is available for all children from the age of 18 months. Please contact Joanne Mitchell 07732 328 322 for further details.

There was traction excitement in Northcliffe as Shipley Fire Service joined us again this year with an amazing opportunity for children to have their photographs taken inside the engine. Children also enjoyed climbing on board the tractor which rescued the engine from the mud thanks to Sean, the parks gardener.



This year there was also a lot of yummy treats, including locally sourced honey, Asian food, Scouts barbeque, home-made cakes and home-made lemonade. Creativity, donkey rides, train rides, music from Acoustic North Open Mic, and sports were also a big feature at the gala this year. Cath, our local PCO, put on a spectacular archery feature which drew in a whole range of children and adults – yet another new feature to Northcliffe.



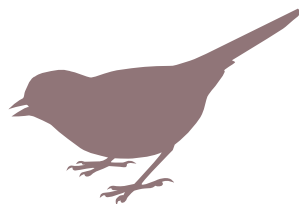
Sponge Tree (spongetree@live.com) introduced the butterfly theme for the Northcliffe Arts Project, due to start on 3 August, on the top meadow, another not to be missed event, and Creative Angel (www.facebook.com/katie.creative.angel) let the kids get messy with their personalised ECO bag stall. There was also a chance to make your mark on the big canvas in preparation for the Northcliffe arts Project – contact Melanie Bruzzese, melbruzzese@yahoo.co.uk or 07709 175 874.

Friends of Northcliffe would like to give a special thanks to BMES, Shipley Fire service, Sean Gardner for his hard work on the day, Bradford Parks for providing gazebos, St. Pauls for providing tables and chairs, local businesses for providing raffle prizes, all of 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.



WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz



THE HUNGRY WOOD

All living things need food. Food gives us the energy to grow and move, work and play. Plants are no exception – though we don't usually see them eating! The energy they need mostly comes from sunlight which is 'captured' by their leaves. Some trees are better than others at trapping and storing the sun's energy.

Conifers such as firs and pines are well suited to living in the northern parts of the world where there is less bright sunshine. They keep their leaves (or needles) all the year round so they can trap even the weak winter sunlight. Conifers have spiky tops and grow very close together. This makes a pine wood quite dark and few plants grow beneath the trees.

Deciduous trees such as oak and ash lose their leaves in winter and have gently rounded 'crowns'. If you walk through the wood at Northcliffe you will notice how the light filters through the leaves and reaches the ground. This allows lots of wild flowers to grow on the woodland floor – especially in the spring.

Because the 'evergreen' trees are better at catching light than trees which drop their leaves, they grow very much faster. For this reason, conifers are usually grown for timber and many large pine forests have been planted in the last fifty years.

Northcliffe has a mixed woodland where you will see oak and ash, beech and holly, sycamore and sweet chestnut. On the field there are small groups of trees which include rowan, silver birch, hawthorn, alder, willow and field maple. And one thing which they all have in common is that they are all hungry for sunshine!



The names of some of the trees which grow at Northcliffe can be seen below. Opposite their names are some facts (in the wrong order) about these trees. Draw lines to join each tree to its correct description.

Horse Chestnut

has papery white bark and purplish brown twigs

Oak

always associated with Christmas

Silver birch

collect conkers from this tree

Sycamore

its fruit is an acorn

Sweet chestnut

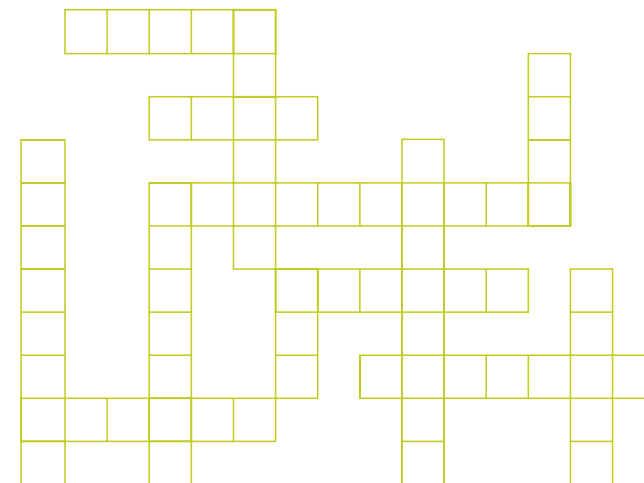
its large leaves grow on long reddish stalks

Holly

the husk of its nut is a mass of sharp green spikes

The 13 words below are all to do with things you may enjoy at Northcliffe. All you have to do is fit the words correctly into the available spaces.

It is a good idea to start by finding the right place to put the longest (10 letter) word. After that it will be easier to fill in the remaining spaces.



PLAYGROUND
MUD
WOODLAND
STREAM
POND

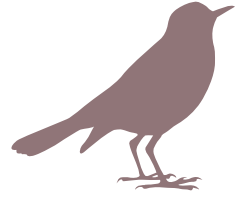
GRASS
MEADOW
FOOTPATH
PARK

PUTTING
RAILWAY
TENNIS
BIRDS





FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE



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Answers for Crossword No. 7

Across

1 Bird food; 6 Fawn; 8 Robins; 9 Upland; 10 Large trees; 12 People;
14 Conker; 15 Northerner; 19 Grower; 20 Favour; 21 Dewy; 22 Hardness

Down

2 Iron; 3 Drill; 4 Observe; 5 Drupe; 6 Fell run; 7 Wanderer; 11 Resource;
13 Pathway; 14 Conifer; 16 Earth; 17 Raven; 18 Bugs