



FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER
Spring 2017



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We are making a slight change to the Newsletter this year. Instead of three issues there will be only two – one in the Spring and the other Summer/Autumn. Details of events etc will continue to be emailed out to members in-between issues of the Newsletter so that you are kept up to date with all that is happening.

If any members would like to write articles for the Newsletter please do so and email them to me at any time and depending on what is received they will be included in the next issue.

Last year Friends were busy organising many events and you can look forward to a repeat of many of them again this year! Please keep a look out for information being sent by e-mail and posters on the notice boards.



Liz Hansen
Editor

WELCOME



It's Spring again – the bulbs are blooming, the woodpeckers are pecking and allotmenters are allotmenting! There have been some beautiful days, in the calm before and after Storm Doris, who thankfully seems not to have caused too much damage. We've had some lovely walks as a family already, with much more to come as the year progresses.

Friends business started off this year as usual with our Annual General Meeting, which we held at the Kirkgate Centre in January. Amongst other things, we elected the committee for this year, so please allow me to introduce them:

Steve Bruzzese – Chair
Guy Barford – Deputy Chair
Sheila Parkin – Secretary
Joan Newman – Treasurer and Membership
Julia Pearson – Conservation
Keith Scott – Website
Liz Hansen – Newsletter
Val Harris – Heritage
Joan Stevens – General Committee Member
Events – Vacant
Promotions – Vacant
General Committee Member – Vacant





John Bromley decided to stand down as a General Committee Member, due to his many other commitments, but will continue to lead and participate in conservation activities. I'd like to thank John for his time and contribution on the Committee for a number of years now, and for his continuing commitment to what we do.

Our vacancies on the Committee for events and promotions remain, and whilst we have a number of people who are willing to help with individual activities, we still lack someone who can help co-ordinate the efforts of our many helpers. Melanie continues to do a sterling job, but is limited to just three or four key events a year now. We do take advantage of any offers we can, however, including a very kind offer of a guided bird walk by Mark Doveston of the Bradford and Airedale branch of the RSPB. This will take place on Sunday 14th May, exact timing to be confirmed so watch out for emails or look on the noticeboards.

There's lots happening besides events, such as our very active conservation programme. Val is testing the concept of midweek volunteering, which has worked very well for other 'Friends of' type groups. It's also the year in which the Northcliffe heritage project should wrap up with a full report. And make sure you support NEET when you're buying your seed potatoes, bedding plants and hanging baskets, and lots more besides. Plus the miniature railway running most Sundays after the Easter Bunny event until September with BMES. As ever, Northcliffe has all of life's simple pleasures for you to enjoy, so make the most of it!

All the best,
Steve

(Ed – since this was written times for the bird walk have been confirmed. Please see page 5 for further details.)



The third annual Santa Special was another roaring success. It was again a sell-out, with even more tickets going to BMES and FoN members this time around. Morrisons Enterprise 5 Idle and Q20 Events supported us fantastically as last year – we really would struggle without their valuable contributions.

Thanks also to our many volunteers and helpers, who wrapped presents, erected grottos and ran the trains. We also had Grumpy John's Cider dispensing goodwill in a cup, NEET's stall and Craftychops face painting. And the main team of Melanie, Rebekah, Ken, John and Sheila – you're all brilliant!

Next year, we plan to put tickets on sale in September to FoN and BMES members only, as well as staff from Morrisons. This may mean that there are very few, if any, public sales, as we are not planning to increase the size of the event at all, so it pays to continue your membership if you want to secure a place on the Santa Special next year! And encourage anyone interested in riding who's not a member to join...



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Please always check the Notice Boards in case an event has been cancelled.

Ride the trains with Easter Bunny

Saturday 15th April
12.30–3.00pm

Bird Watching Walk with Mark Doveston

Sunday 14th May
7.00am

Big Lunch (in conjunction with Jo Cox Foundation)

Sunday 4th June
12.00–2.00pm

Rae Gala

Sunday 2nd July
2.00–4.30pm

Garden Party

Sunday 3rd September
2.00–4.00pm

More events may be announced, so keep an eye on the noticeboards and your email.



Friends of Northcliffe would like to increase their conservation efforts in Northcliffe and Old Spring Woods.

We need more volunteers to help.

We are thinking of setting up a new weekday group which could meet monthly on a regular day, and there would be a range of tasks for each session so people can choose what tasks they want to do to suit their interests and capability. We also need more volunteers to join the existing evening and weekend sessions which focus more on balsam removal and thinning the beech trees. You don't need any experience – just a willingness to help with some of the different tasks that need doing throughout the year – If you think you might like to join us, please email valharris@phonecoop.coop and say which days of the week are good for you, whether you prefer day or evenings, and if there are any regular slots in a month that you cannot do for example the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please give your name and the best way to contact you.

Please pass this request onto anyone else who you think might be interested in getting involved.

I will collate the replies and will be back in touch to say what we can do.

Since this was sent out it has been decided from the replies received that a group will meet on the third Tuesday of the month. See penultimate paragraph of the Conservation report by Julia Pearson on page 7 for full details.



Birds of Northcliffe A Guided Walk Sunday 14th May, 7.00am

Meet at the wooden gate on Cliffe Wood Avenue, by the Friends of Northcliffe noticeboard.

Join Mark Doveston for an interesting and informative walk around Northcliffe. Mark will help you identify who's who in the morning chorus, and point out species as the walk progresses.

The walk should last roughly two hours, please wear suitable footwear and dress for the weather.

Mark is a local expert who runs guided walks for the Airedale and Bradford local group of the RSPB. Don't miss this opportunity to find out more about the wealth of bird life we have right on our doorstep in the beautiful surroundings of Northcliffe.



Conservation Update

By Julia Pearson



Over recent months Friends of Northcliffe members have been discussing ways of increasing biodiversity in the woodlands and meadows.

Ideas gathered in conversation on a walk around the woods have been collated into the first draft of a 'micro management plan'. Though still in its early stages, it outlines the aims we want to achieve and has identified some actions that will help improve the mix and amount of wildlife we see in Northcliffe.

The fundamental aim is to improve the range of habitats to encourage more birds, flowers, fungi and invertebrates thereby increasing people's experience of being in Northcliffe.

This will be achieved in part by increasing the diversity of structure within the woodland; selectively felling some trees to allow regeneration, encouraging more understory trees and shrubs, and creating dense scrub for nesting birds.

We will continue to remove the beech saplings which have an adverse effect on the ground flora and establishment of oak, rowan and birch saplings. When resources permit we intend to remove a small number of the larger sycamore and plant a mix of native trees as an alternative.

We want to plant some low growing trees and shrubs in areas such as the bird feeding area and around the planted areas adjacent to the meadow, including alder to attract birds such as siskin and redpoll, and viburnum which will be laden with berries in autumn.

We will also continue with our challenge of controlling the spread of Himalayan balsam, contributing to encouraging a healthy mix of woodland flowers. Can we generate the resources to tackle some of the balsam populations on the steeper slopes? In some places, especially alongside the beck, we wish to isolate some areas that have become bare mud to prevent footfall and see if woodland plants can re-establish.



We also want to explore improvements to the pond and beck to create more natural habitats. A definite action to implement is to empty the silt traps at the inflow to the pond more regularly, and you can expect to see this listed in the work programme this summer. We want to take the most appropriate action to maintain some open water in the pond, whilst not causing excessive annual disturbance. In the longer term, once more advice has been sought, we may consider the possibility of removing gabions to allow the beck to meander naturally, and to expand areas to create wetland.

In addition we want to keep paths in good condition, screen the back of the bird feeding area with a dead-hedge and cut back brambles where they are encroaching the pathways. This winter we have been installing a number of new bird boxes. We will continue this programme and are encouraging people to sponsor a bird box to contribute to the costs involved (you can do this when you renew your membership).

To achieve these ideas we will need to increase our activities in Northcliffe, and to this end we will be trialling a midweek group on the third Tuesday of the month. This group will meet 10am – 2.30pm, people can come for part of or the whole day, meeting in the NEET car park, at the allotments, at 10 or 12.30. Email Val Harris if you wish to be on the list to be kept informed of sessions and details. valharris@phoncoop.coop

We also need to make sure we survey and record the wildlife so we hope to make a map of significant plants such as the bluebells, wood anemone, woodruff and cuckoo flower and to record the flowers in the meadow (look out for details of a walk in June).



If you have any ideas about wildlife in the woods please get in touch; come along to a members' meeting or email friendsofnorthcliffe@gmail.com





SANTA SPECIAL

With thanks to Ken Shipley, BMES, for allowing us to use his article here

For the last couple of years we have operated a Santa Special event in conjunction with Friends of Northcliffe, 2016 was no exception. The event was the idea of Mel Bruzzese and has proved to be very popular. After the success of the 2015 event I was asked, in July, if I'd arrange another, I agreed as long as we could keep essentially the same team, all were asked and readily agreed.

John Barraclough makes a great Santa helped very competently by his Elves, Mel and Rebekah ably assisted by gift sorter Sheila Parkin from FoN.

Planning and organisation starts in early October with the ticket application form being posted on the FoN and BMES websites. The event is offered to members until the end of the month after which any unsold tickets are

offered to the general public. As in previous years the tickets were sold very quickly.

In 2015 the event was generously sponsored by Morrison's supermarket and Mel approached them again for this year, alas, a slight breakdown in communications meant the request wasn't processed. The event was due to take place on Sunday 13 December and on the preceding Wednesday we had no gifts confirmed! However, due to the



sterling efforts of Mel and Paul Kelly, the manager at Morrison's 5 Lane Ends store, all was resolved and Friday evening saw 8 of us helping Santa and his elves by wrapping 115 gifts of all shapes and sizes for children from age 12 months to 12 years, Santa wouldn't lose face after all.

Sunday morning dawned chilly and breezy but thankfully dry, and the advance team erected the event shelters which are miraculously transformed into Santa's grotto by Mel and her team of artists. The gusting wind did cause a bit of concern when it tried to transport the Grotto up to Northcliffe Golf Course but swift action with a few ratchet straps secured it in place.

By 11am all was set for Rob Marshall, driving "Pandora", to transport Santa to his office and David Brimacombe to take the first passengers. Nick Wright helpfully did a stint driving David's loco giving David a welcome break. To help the event run smoothly tickets are issued for a set train time and Meeter and Greeter Jim Jennings and Station Master Richard Ashworth did a sterling job organising bums on seats.

Despite the great job done by Russ Coppin and all the members helping out on the Grotto station, as the morning progressed we lost a bit of time so the lunch break had to be a bit shorter than was planned, sorry about that, must try harder next year.

At this point I must thank all the people who helped out in the kitchen serving tea, coffee and cakes to keep us all going and to Mike H for the soup.

Whilst the main activities take place on the ground level track we still offer rides on the raised track and John Mills with his LNER V3 and Martin Birch with his Metropolitan Growler were kept constantly busy all day with Station Master David Jackson and helpers filling the trains.

During the afternoon we lost a bit more time which meant we had to pack up in the dark but all in all it had been a really enjoyable day, not quite as slick as 2015, but we've identified a few points we missed and suggested a few more should we run the event in 2017.

I really must say an enormous thank you to all who came to help out and make Mel's dream come true again.

(Ed: A big thankyou to BMES, MelBruzzese, Sheila Parkin and all their helpers from FoN without whose help this event would not happen.)



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS UPDATE FEBRUARY 2017

202 families are currently signed up as members of FoN. We aimed for 200 paid families in 2016, so are pleased that we started 2017 having attained that goal. Nearly 10% have already paid for the following membership year starting April 2017.

About half of members are happy to receive the newsletters by e-mail only, but please advise us if you would like to receive a hard copy again – the newsletter is an attractive publication and could be passed on to encourage prospective members.

Welcome to new members:

James Beighton and Ruth Viqueira, Dr Bob Martin, Margaret Moore, Donna Pankhurst, Candice Swift, Sophie and Tony Wainman

Members who have left the area:
Adrian and Sue Manning

Subscriptions for 2017/18 – the same as 2016/17

£7 Family
£6 Family concession
£5 Single
£4 Single concession

Donations are always welcome.

Bird box appeal

The bat group removed all the bat boxes in the woods in the autumn because bats were not using them, but birds were. We have now put up at least 30 new bird boxes, made by the Cellar Trust, and there are more planned. Paul McHugh has been erecting them for us.

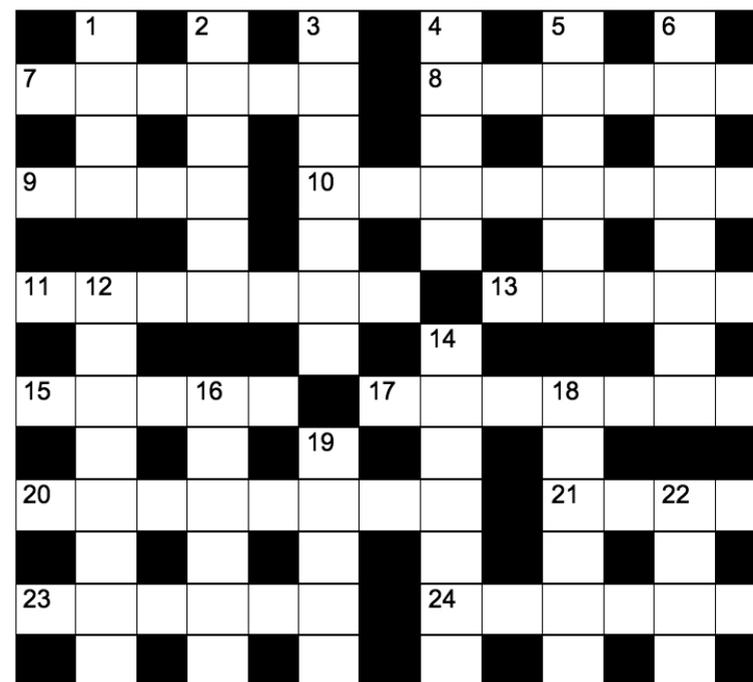
We are suggesting a £10 donation to go towards the cost of one bird box. If you wish to donate towards the new bird boxes please send to me. If you send with your subscription please tick the appropriate box on the membership form enclosed/attached to this Newsletter.

If you require a membership form please see our website or contact me by email or phone. Details are on the back page of newsletters.



Joan Newman
Friends of Northcliffe Treasurer/
Membership

NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD No. 15



Across

- 7 RACE AM, later becomes digital (6)
- 8 Insect with pincers (6)
- 9 These insects live in colonies (4)
- 10 CARD BILL upset to become the sound of a feathered friend (8)
- 11 Fly in one of these in a basket (7)
- 13 PAILS upset to become a fall in mud or on ice (1,4)
- 15 A squirrel could be described like this (5)
- 17 See 22 down (7)
- 20 LENT SING emerges from an egg (8)
- 21 These birds can be blue, great, long tailed etc (4)
- 23 Scientific name for ivy (6)
- 24 50 + the overhang from a roof (6)

Down

- 1 Tended grass (4)
- 2 LET SEA changes to a plant with seeds liked by goldfinches (8)
- 3 Panda food (7)
- 4 Fruit which sounds as though they should grow in twos (5)
- 5 Spring flowering corm (6)
- 6 In Northcliffe part of this is covered in Himalayan Balsam (8)
- 12 Island NW of Wales (8)
- 14 Worms are like this (7)
- 16 Discarded rubbish (6)
- 18 PARENT changes to become what spiders do with food (6)
- 19 SAILS change to become a plant useful in sailing (6)
- 22 & 17 across
Movement, or name, of a mouse-like bird with a probing beak (4,7 or 11) (4)

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

Composed by Joan Newman, assisted by Douglas Lumb



WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz



THE EASTER EGGS-TRAVAGANZA

As you read about Easter, don't blame the writer, the editor or the printer for any spelling mistakes you might see. (This is an eggsample!) Instead, see if you can spot more incorrect spellings then turn to the answer page to see if you found them all. (Please find the answers on the back cover).

It's almost Easter – a time which is always associated with eggs. Although the giving of eggstremely yummy chocolate eggs is not a very old custom, real eggs have been given as spring gifts for thousands of years. In ancient times, the people of Persia and Egypt gave specially coloured eggs, a tradition which continues today in many countries. The eggs may be hard boiled or blown before being decorated. Blown eggs (which are eggs which have had the yolks and 'whites' blown out through very small holes) are quite fiddly to prepare and also very easily broken. Plastic or polystyrene egg shapes make an eggcellent alternative. They are available from most craft or hobby shops and can be used in a variety of ways to make Easter decorations.

One of the easiest methods, suitable for all ages, is to brush thin PVA glue over a polystyrene 'egg' then cover it with layers of torn tissue, smoothing down any tissue edges as you go. Brush more glue over each layer and be sure to finish with a coating of the thin glue, Pressed flower petals or confetti can also be added to the final layer. Leave the eggs to dry thoroughly. You can write names or greetings on the dry surface with a permanent marker pen. They will look eggstra good arranged in a bowl or basket as a table decoration.



THE EGGSCPTIONALLY DIFFICULT HOT CROSS BUN PUZZLE!

Do you like spicy hot cross buns? The friends in the puzzle below seemed to have plenty to spare. Without getting hot and cross yourself, can you work out the answer to the puzzle?



Jamie and Jake buy 6 hot cross buns each.

Jamie gives 1 bun to John and 1 each to Jason and Jill.

Jake gives 3 buns to Jane – who doesn't like them and gives them back to him with yet another 3.

Jamie eats 2 buns but Jade takes 5 buns from Jake who then eats all but 1 of his remaining buns.

Jack gives Jamie twice as many buns as Jake now has.

Then Jake and Jamie eat one bun each and save the rest until Easter Sunday.

How many buns do Jake and Jamie have between them on Easter Day?

Please find the answer on the back cover.

'The name Easter comes from the name of the goddess of spring, Eostre.'



WORD CHAIN

This puzzle is eggsactly what it seems – a connected chain of words.

In the chain, look for 13 words, including the names of 6 young living creatures, 3 flowers and 4 more.

CHICKITENESTADPOLEAFOALAMBLUEBELLEVERETREESHOWERSNOWDROPRIMROSEGG

Please find the answers on the back cover.





FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE



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Answers to Crossword no 15

Across:

7 Camera; 8 Earwig; 9 Ants; 10 Birdcall; 11 Balloon; 13 A slip; 15 Agile;
17 (see 22 down); 20 Nestling; 21 Tits; 23 Hedera; 24 Leaves

Down:

1 Lawn; 2 Teasel; 3 Bamboos; 5 Crocus; 6 Hillside; 12 Anglesey;
14 Wiggly; 16 Litter; 18 Entrap; 19 Sisal; 22 & 17 across Tree creeper or
treecreeper

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Design
Phil Morrison

Woody's Spot answers:

**THE EASTER
EGGS-TRAVAGANZA**

These words were spelt
incorrectly; EXTRA,
EXTRAVAGANZA, EXAMPLE,
EXTREMELY, EXCELLENT,
EXCEPTIONALLY

HOT CROSS BUN PUZZLE

ANSWER: They have 2 between
them as Jamie has 2 and Jake
has none.

WORD CHAIN

Answers; CHICK, KITTEN
TADPOLE, LEAF, FOAL, LAMB
BLUEBELL, LEVERET, TREES
SHOWERS, SNOWDROP
PRIMROSE, EGG