



# FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER  
November 2016



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### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I am sure sure you have heard about the proposed housing development on Springhurst Road but have you heard about the one in Northcliffe? See page 04 to find out more!

Well it has been a busy summer when you look at the articles and Steve's Chairman's report – how do we fit it all in! It is only the hard work and good preparation of Melanie Bruzzese and the band of helpers that make it all happen. Despite Melanie giving up the role almost two years ago she is still doing the work for the events. I know Steve and I keep asking for someone to come forward to take on the role of organising events, even just one event but still nobody has shown any interest. Please think about how you might be able to help and get in touch with Steve if you feel you could do something. New members – any of you good at organising and think you may be able to help?



Liz Hansen



#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Back row: Joan Newman, Guy Barford, Rebekah Shipley, Val Harris, Keith Scott  
Seated: Jenny Burnell, Sheila Parkin, Joan Stevens

## WELCOME



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**As I write this there's been a distinct nip in the air, a scattering of leaves on the ground and the clocks have gone back.**

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By the time you read this, I suspect autumn will be in full flow, with who knows what sort of winter to follow? We were lucky (or unlucky, depending on your view) not to have snow last year, so let's see what the long nights and short days hold in store for us.

It's been a busy but lovely summer, with cream teas on the lawn to round off the season in style. More on this elsewhere, but I have to confess to a rather large cake intake that afternoon – well, it all looked so delicious!

Northcliffe continues to be well used and enjoyed by a variety of people from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds. It's so nice to see people picnicking when the weather's fine, playing in the playground, tending their allotments or simply walking in the meadow. Our friends at BMES have also done their usual fantastic job of running trains in the woods every weekend between Easter and the end of September. Nothing beats a lovely train ride through the woods when you're full of Sunday roast!





The folk up at Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET) have been busy. If you've been up there this summer you'll have seen the spanking new toilet block, and they've also been busy on both the grounds and a new kitchen. Another gold award from Yorkshire in Bloom came their way too, many congratulations to everyone for their efforts.

Although the activity seems to have subsided a bit, there's still some instances of anti-social behaviour. Most recently, another vehicle was driven through the gates at the entrance to the woods, and burnt out on the field next to the railway. As I mentioned last time, you can help by keeping your eyes open for criminal or suspicious activity, and reporting it to the police.

We're entering our quiet season for events, although it won't be long before the winter conservation programme begins again. Events-wise, there's our third Santa Special to come on Sunday 11th December. Always popular, you will have already had your opportunity as a member to book advance tickets. So, make the most of Northcliffe. Get out and swish some leaves, have a paddle in the stream, walk across the meadow or admire the changing colours as the weeks go by. Autumn can feel like a bit of a downer after a beautiful summer, but the changing landscape is wonderful to see if you get out and about. Enjoy yourselves in the run-up to Christmas, and we'll see you again in the New Year!

All the best,  
Steve



## CREAM TEAS

By Steve Bruzzese

On Sunday 4th September, we had a lovely afternoon of tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits in the surrounds of the park. We set up tables and chairs (with thanks to St Paul's church once again for helping us out), and hung bunting from the trees on the lawn by the bowling green.

Jenny, Joan S and Sheila did a fantastic job running the kitchen, whilst Joan N collected new members. I tried a bit of waiting on tables, when I wasn't helping Mel and Caitlin eat cake. And lots of it there was too, our members doing their usual sterling job of donating delicious baked goods for us to sell. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We had a lovely afternoon – the sun came out, and the only problem may have been that some passers-by assumed that what was going on had something to do with the bowling club! I've since had an offer from Paula Truman, Shipley's Ward Officer, to help with the promotion of events, so I'll be talking to her before our next season gets underway.

We raised over £70 for Friends of Northcliffe, so the event was well worth doing. We enjoyed it so much we'll be looking to do the same again next year. If you didn't come along, you missed a treat – just look at the pictures!



# Skyscraper Factory

By Ann Dalton



In late May last year I noticed a temporary factory, with living quarters and a crèche, was in full production with workers in identical uniforms bringing essential and costly products.



Hard relentless toil is needed to feed new members of the team and their queen who will be the only survivor of this colony.

Now in the winter she will be trying to survive in some hidden nook before emerging in the spring to find a new factory site where the cycle of bumble bee birth, work and death is completed once more.

The skyscraper with basement factory is a spacious and very well planned environment, with a network of clever plumbing. Pumping equipment brings essential nutrients to all levels, a canopy erected each spring gives shelter and shade, and drainage channels direct rainwater down to the underground service area of this oak tree in Northcliffe Woods.

Oak trees are home to over 400 different species, from bumble bees among the roots to squirrels and birds nesting or passing through. Bugs and insects, aphids, moths, caterpillars, spiders, wasps, butterflies, grubs and beetles create their own habitats in this piece of natural real estate. No man made skyscraper throbs with so much life, energy, drama, death and renewal as our tree as it breathes out oxygen, creates its own leafy power supply and sustains the natural world in such a wonderfully simple, beautiful and self-sustaining way.

# Heritage on Show



Exhibition at Shipley Library earlier this year illustrating the heritage of Northcliffe.



# What is Volunteering?

By Anne Dalton



The crime was killing the Criminal Records Bureau employee through sheer boredom as my check revealed the dark deed of flicking water from a spoon at school dinner!

However the necessary CRB certificate was the key to becoming a volunteer at Northcliffe Nurseries (NEET). Once a week for over a decade I've joined Ian, Suzanne, workers and volunteers at this amazing place. If I thought I'd sail in to dazzle the folk with my gardening skills, forget it! The service users are certainly not there to be told what to do by the likes of me, no! I work alongside and learn from them, most of who have worked and grown with the place from very basic beginnings to the professional set up it has become. NEET is a happy place, no one is forced to attend and there is a job for everyone to suit their capabilities and develop their skills. If we need muscle power, weed spotting, planting, labelling, seed sowing, sweeping, clearing, barrowing, woodwork, and, most importantly, coffee brewing, someone can do it.

The repartee and leg pulling are infectious and if there is a disagreement or tantrum or upset, it is very interesting to an untrained person to see how the situation can be diffused calmly, firmly and fairly. Encouragement in bucketfuls, humour and a positive outlook gives everyone a sense of belonging and worth. It's a lovely place to work.

**At Friends of Northcliffe we are all volunteers and it is organised by a very hard working and imaginative committee, of which I am not a member, being happier in wellies grubbing about outdoors.**



In the woods passers-by can be rather alarmed when they see us apparently indulging in group vandalism as we chop, saw and uproot beech saplings, but are usually satisfied when we explain that beeches outgrow and overshadow oaks, hence the arboriculture culling. There is something perversely satisfying in a bit of demolition work if one knows the outcome will give oaks room to grow and the bluebells space and light.

In summer we happily yank out hundreds of Himalayan Balsam plants to give space for our native flora to survive, it seems a rather thankless task, especially when we are joined by midges with other intentions, but it does make a difference and the camaraderie, physical well-being and a job well done is more than compensation, and cheaper than a gym!

Bird food is carted regularly to the bird hide and feeders filled daily by individuals, and as well as members of the public we try to collect the inevitable rubbish left by other members of the public who obviously neither know or care what a litter bin is for.

Most of us like to be needed and it is lovely to find a group where we can enjoy the company of others who share our interests and to work to achieve something which seems to us worthwhile – and maybe that is what volunteering means.



# Conservation Update

By Julia Pearson



**Conservation Update October 2016**  
We held six Himalayan balsam pulling sessions over the summer months (apologies again for late cancellation of sessions), plus a BEES conservation volunteer group. We returned to areas that had been worked in previously to maximise our impact; near the pond, either side of the steps near the golf club bridge and alongside the main path through the woods. In addition to our efforts, BMES have continued to clear the areas near the railway.

Although undoubtedly there is still a large amount of balsam in the woods, we have noticed a big impact in the areas we have worked and reworked over the years. The woodland flora in these areas is now full of a range of plants including ferns, Wild Angelica, Climbing Corydalis, Greater Stitchwort and Wood Sorrel.



At the end of September we had a muddy day in the pond digging out some of the collected leaf litter, shale and sand washed down the beck. We are trying to keep a balance between increasing the chance of having some open water in the summer months whilst not disturbing the ecology of the pond too much. It's hard work and really we could do with more time to have the desired impact, so we will bear this in mind next year.

The next phase of conservation sessions will be thinning beech saplings during the winter months. We aim to improve conditions for the Bluebells as well as tree species such as Oak, Birch, Rowan and Elm.

Elm is the sole food plant for the caterpillar of the White-letter Hairstreak butterfly which, if you are lucky, can be seen around Northcliffe. The butterfly spends most of the time flitting high on the treetops feeding on honeydew, but sometimes comes down to flowers, e.g. thistles, Bramble and Privet, in the early morning and late afternoon. It always has its wings closed when it comes to rest, showing the series of lines forming a white 'W' on the underside of its hindwings. Their wing span is 25–35mm, so this butterfly is notably smaller than the species you might see more commonly around Northcliffe, e.g. the Speckled Wood on the woodland edge, or the Meadow Brown in the grasslands.

A colony was first recorded in Northcliffe on July 21st 1994, having been rarely seen in the Bradford area prior to this. It is typical that the colonies, often just a few dozen individuals, do not roam far and reuse the same site year after year. We haven't heard of any recordings this year, but I don't know if anyone has specifically looked and it has been an awful year for butterflies in general. This may be a small clump of trees, or a single tree. As you would imagine of a species reliant on Elm, it was badly affected by Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s and early 1980s and there were concerns it could become extinct.

The Northcliffe colony seemed to be restricted to the two remaining healthy Elms at the time, which have since been felled. In anticipation of this Friends of Northcliffe took action in 1995, planting disease-resistant varieties of Elm in an area near the current bird-feeding station.

The caterpillars generally rely on the flower buds as their food source so they need to be compatible with the timing of the larvae – April and May. The Wych Elm is their favourite, especially on the woodland edge where the butterflies can avoid the shade. There are a number of young trees in Northcliffe. These are not affected by Dutch elm disease until they are large enough to develop a fissured bark. We will continue the management work set out in 1994 to protect these and hopefully support colonies of White-letter Hairstreak in the future.



# MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE YEAR TO MARCH 2017

There are 214 memberships of Friends of Northcliffe, however about 10% have yet to pay for the current year. If you are one of those who have not yet paid but would like to remain members please send your subscription as soon as possible. We did aim for 200 paid memberships in this our 25th year and are very pleased to have topped that figure.

About half our members are happy to receive the newsletters by e-mail only, but please advise me 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: Roger and Jenni Binks, Ann Colley, Colette Cushing, Ray Garrard on behalf of 3rd Shipley St Peter's Scouts, and Adrian and Jayne Walkinshaw

Many thanks for putting up with my various reminders for subscriptions, and I apologise if occasionally things go wrong with recording people or payments.

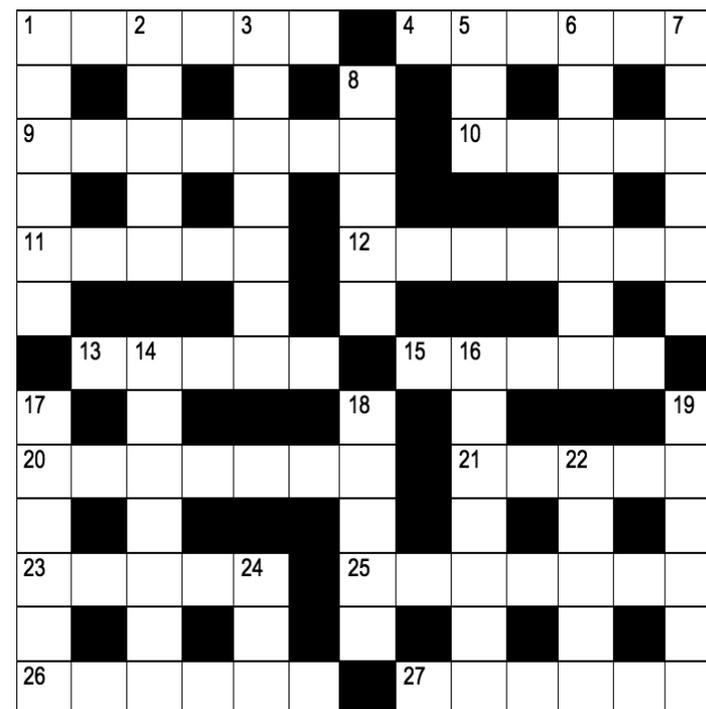
## Subscriptions:

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

Donations are always welcome, and we will use them across all of our areas of work unless you have a specific request.

Joan Newman  
Friends of Northcliffe Treasurer/  
Membership

## NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD No. 14



### Words in CAPITALS are anagrams

#### Across

- 1 You are a ..... of Northcliffe if you are reading this (6)
- 4 Grassland north of our woods (6)
- 9 Exotic flowers found in 4 across (7)
- 10 A daily monotonous task (5)
- 11 To follow (5)
- 12 Turn BAY CLAM to become a brass instrument (1,6)
- 13 After a muddy task we need this (1,4)
- 15 Often at the top of a Christmas tree (5)
- 20 POOR LES transforms to describe caterpillars with legs at the front and back – an example is the caterpillar of the cabbage white butterfly (7)
- 21 WARPS warped – to hide gifts from view (5)
- 23 Small areas of land surrounded by water (5)
- 25 LOOM WED becomes a useful material for furniture making (7)
- 26 What are we before we eat? (6)
- 27 Norman Rae was one of these (see also 24 down) (6)

#### Down

- 1 FOWLER shaken to become blossom (6)
- 2 Ancient South American Indians (5)
- 3 DO IN SEA churns to become a blank (2,5)
- 5 Laid by birds, mainly in Spring (3)
- 6 A term in football for moving the ball slowly forward (7)
- 7 DAWDLE alters to become a duck walk (6)
- 8 A written composition (5)
- 14 Winter jumpers are often related to sheep (7)
- 16 Reporters (7)
- 17 Santa's transport (6)
- 18 Fire residue (5)
- 19 TOAD IS changed to be a description of a full stop (2,1,3)
- 22 MANGO turns to be in the midst (5)
- 24 Title of Norman Rae (who gave the woods to Shipley) (3)

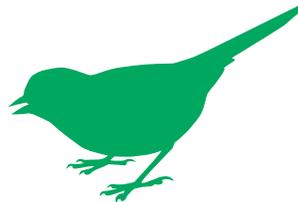
The answers can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Composed by Joan Newman, assisted by Douglas Lumb



## WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz



I've seen deer in Northcliffe Woods. They are little brown roe deer and they venture out on to the field at dawn and dusk to feed. They eat leaves and young shoots from the trees, and grasses and ferns. I once saw a different sort of 'deer' – a reindeer, near the miniature railway – but that was a pretend one, not real like the roe deer, and he was just visiting for Christmas.

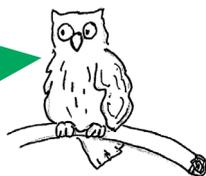
Real live reindeer live in Alaska, Canada, Scandinavia and Russia. The only ones living in Britain belong to a herd in the Cairngorm mountains in Scotland. They were introduced to the area in 1952 by a Laplander, Mikel Utsi and his wife, Dr Ethel Lindgren. To begin with, just seven reindeer were brought over from Sweden as a sort of experiment. Mr Utsi hoped the reindeer would settle in the Scottish Highlands, which were so much like the reindeer pastures of Lapland. The reindeer loved living in the Cairngorms – especially as lots of their favourite food (heather and lichen) were to be found growing there. Today, there are about 150 reindeer in the herd and they are free to graze on almost 7,000 acres of mountain pasture.

Each year, some reindeer from the herd are chosen to take part in Christmas Parades. Young reindeer are paired with older ones who are already experienced at pulling sleighs. In October they start their training in the village of Glenmore near to their grazing pastures. As they are friendly, gentle animals, reindeer quickly learn to enjoy their special Christmas roles. By November they are ready to travel around the country to appear in Christmas Parades. You may even have seen them in Bradford!



"Lichen (pronounced 'like-en') is a small moss-like plant which grows on rocks, walls trees and also on moors."

"There are over 1000 different sorts of lichen growing in Britain and reindeer moss, which the Cairngorm reindeer love to eat, is just one of them."



However, although real reindeer have not yet visited Northcliffe, Santa Claus has been seen at the miniature railway! He only comes once a year and he is the jolliest, happiest Santa anyone could wish to meet. He travels in his sleigh (what else!) around the railway track in the woods – ringing his bell and ho-ho-ho-ing until it's time for him to go somewhere else to do other Christmassy jobs, and he is helped all day by his happy, hard working elves.

So keep your eyes open. If you are very lucky you might see Santa (and some real roe deer) at Northcliffe. And if you are very, very lucky you might see some real reindeer at a local parade. And then, if you are very, very, VERY lucky, you might peep out of your window on Christmas Eve and see a whole team of reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh across the night sky!!



## SANTA'S COMING!

Santa Special  
takes place on  
Sunday 11 December  
11am to 3pm

One nine letter word mentioned above has been used in the grid opposite. Can you find it? Then see how many more words you can make by tracking from letter to letter in any direction.

L	A	N
H	S	D
G	I	H





# FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE



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Answers to Crossword no 14

Across:

1 Friend; 4 Meadow; 9 Orchids; 10 Grind; 11 Ensur; 12 A cymbal; 13 A wash;  
15 Angel; 20 Loopers; 21 Wraps; 23 Isles; 25 Elm wood; 26 Hungry; 27 Knight

Down:

1 Flower; 2 Incas; 3 No ideas; 5 Egg; 6 Dribble; 7 Waddle; 8 Essay;  
14 Woollen; 16 Newsmen; 17 Sleigh; 18 Ashes; 19 Is a dot; 22 Among; 24 Sir

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