



FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2017



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As you read this Newsletter summer is coming to an end and autumn will soon be upon us. Ann Dalton's article reminds us about the beautiful colours that are all around us – many people don't look at our natural surroundings but I hope that this will encourage everybody to get out and look at what is around us, be it in the garden or, hopefully, in Northcliffe.

John Bromley and Martin Love have been busy working with stone and have written about it for this Newsletter.

You will have noticed on the Notice Boards and emails that we have unfortunately had to cancel the planned Garden Party on 3 September. We are sorry about this but hope that we will make up for it in 2018 when we hope that you will come along – keep a look out on the notice boards and for emails for this and other events that will be organised for 2018.

News about this year's Santa Special is given in Steve's Chairman's report so if you want to come along to that please make sure you read about the new booking arrangement.



Liz Hansen
Editor

WELCOME



As I'm writing this, we've just enjoyed a wonderful day in Northcliffe. We took a picnic and headed up to our allotment, despite the showers that were forecast (and that actually put in an appearance). We had a lovely time doing some work as well as burning some old wood and toasting marshmallows on the fire. Oh, and of course the playground is very handy too. All finished off with a lovely walk through the woods and a train ride or two, before heading off for a well-earned Sunday dinner.

By the time you read this, it's likely that I will have been appointed to the board of trustees for NEET (Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team). I'm extremely honoured to have been asked to join the board, and I have thought long and hard about it, as my time is extremely limited. Suzanne and Ian have reassured me about the commitment needed, and NEET already has a team in place to run things, so there is no requirement to help out in that sense, which is just as well!

I decided to accept, and should hopefully be voted in as a director at their AGM in August. I think for sure that this is a good thing, as it brings the governance of Friends of Northcliffe and NEET much closer together, and could open up opportunities for joint ventures in the future. As a family, we have a lovely relationship with everyone at NEET, staff and clients alike, and they've always been so helpful to us, so it's nice to be able to put a little bit back in this way.





Val's midweek volunteering sessions are doing very well, attracting a steady core of volunteers, and our normal conservation sessions led by Julia and others have continued. We've upgraded our insurance to encompass the increased activities, although to be covered under our policy, volunteers will need to take up membership of Friends of Northcliffe if they are not already members. There are not many for whom this is the case, but it was a problem that needed addressing. We discussed this at our last planning meeting, and have put a solution in place that should do for the rest of the year, until we can put a new membership proposal to our AGM in January.

We've unfortunately had to shelve our plans for our second garden party in September, as I'll be unavailable to help on the weekend we chose. Rather than try and compete with Saltaire festival, which begins the following week, we decided to give it a miss. It seems strange to be talking about Christmas already, but it will be full steam ahead with the Santa Special on Sunday 10th December, now in its fourth year.

Be prepared for a much earlier ticket sales period this year, however. To make it easier to work with our retail partner in this, we've agreed to finalise numbers and ages of children much earlier than in previous years. So we'll be opening ticket sales to Friends of Northcliffe and BMES members on Saturday 26th August, and to the general public for any remaining seats on Saturday 9th September. It has sold out every year so far, and this year will be no exception, so please do take advantage of the early booking period when it is announced.

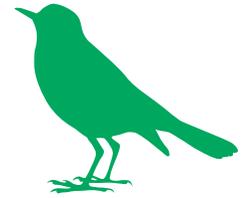
Have a great summer, and enjoy Northcliffe!

Steve

A SHADE-CARD FOR AUTUMN

Our woods are a living shade-card of colours

Ann Dalton



Choose a colour for a tree trunk. Wet trunks often look shiny brown, but get close up and personal and most are basically grey, but with subtle shades and tints depending on the types of tree, their age and the quality of light highlighting textures, from elephant hide, crocodile skin, snake skin, to smooth and sensuous.

Hollies produce British racing green leaves unadorned apart from occasional patterns of mysterious runes made by leaf miners. Bright green perennial herb bennett juveniles pushed determinedly through the base of their dull older relatives earlier in the year and throughout summer and early autumn are there for us to admire. A fine veil of day-glo- green highlights rocks, and rich mosses climb the feet of established trees and grow over slowly decaying logs. Orange and yellow ochre lichens spatter bark and stones, and jade lichens sprout from branches. Silver birches are anything but silver, their bark being beautifully delicate tones of salmon, pink, grey and cream.

Many shades of brown are mixed in fallen leaves: rich plum pudding leaf mould, chocolate mud, pale coffee clay, mahogany briar stems, dun and fawn stalks of brittle dead grasses, and, when the sun hits it, the russet glow of dead bracken.

Hints of tints flit past on pinky-grey breasts of woodpigeons, furry-grey squirrel tails, and discreet nut brown wrens, Flashes of colour draw eyes to screeching green parakeets, post-office red offsetting black and white on woodpeckers, orange-red on robins, white and shot-silk blue on magpies and smart black on crows.

But where is the most common colour in any shade-card?

A large old fallen branch, twisted and weathered already has moss encroaching upon it, its insides gently rotting to a dark gingerbread, and littering the ground, the bark is turning brittle, gradually detaching and revealing a pale layer of - magnolia - our shade-card would not be complete without that!



Conservation Update

By Val Harris

We created a management plan for the Northcliffe woods which was agreed by the council. The midweek group started in March and a regular group of people meet once a month.

Our activities have included improving the paths through the woods by the bird feeding area by laying down bark chippings provided by the council, keeping the undergrowth cut back along these and other paths and in the bird feeding area; mending the dead hedges in the bird feeding area and making some brush piles.



We planted a few trees in the spring and since then we have started work on the land behind the allotment club house, to create some beds as a tree nursery, and have now planted out some small trees to grow on for planting out to create a better under-story in parts of the woods. We have started to cut back and clear some paths into the overgrown area behind the clubhouse as a prelude to making this more wildlife friendly.



For the past 3 months, we have also been balsam pulling. Between day time and evening we will have had 10 sessions trying to keep the balsam in check and it is becoming clear where we have worked; let's hope the balsam isn't quite so bad in these areas next year!



Anyone wanting to join the regular midweek group:

3rd Tuesday in every month
10am–12noon or 12.30pm–2.30pm,
or to hear about other weekday and evening sessions get in touch with Val valharris@phonecoop.coop



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
Woodland management tasks will start from September



THE RAE GALE 2017



The Rae Gala took place on Sunday 2 July, with fantastic weather and a packed programme. We had performances from the ever-present Hall Royd Brass Band, the return of Stars Stage School, and the debut of Northwind Tribal Belly Dancers. Rumbling tummies and thirsty palates were catered for by Noreen and family's Asian food stall, Wrapture felafels, Jenny's strawberries and cream, our very own home-baked goods stall (thanks to everyone who donated), the BMES kitchen, Phil's ices and Grumpy John's Cider looking far more cheerful than the name would suggest!

There were plenty of other activities to keep folk engaged. BMES ran trains to capacity all afternoon, working hard to keep the queues down. We also had ferret racing, tin-can alley, donkey rides, Indian head massage, NEET and their wonderful plant arrangements, bric-a-brac, Craftychops face painting, hedgehog rescue and toy cars. Sean Gardner from the Parks Service played his usual blinder, bringing a couple of tractors along as well as working like a trooper to get the event running. Sean is an integral part of the event now!



We'd like to thank all of our volunteers on the day, whether it was putting up gazebos, running around to instructions from me, or rattling buckets. Also to all our entertainers and stallholders, you made a brilliant afternoon for everyone in the community. And to our friends at BMES, who work tirelessly to convey hundreds of eager passengers, you do a fantastic job!

Look forward to seeing you all again next year.



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2017

As I write this at the end of July about 3/4 of our 209 members have renewed their membership this year, and many have been generous with our appeal for bird boxes, as well giving donations for general funds.

We welcome the following new members since the Spring 2017 newsletter:

Gwen and Tim Billingsley; David Brigg and family; Nat, Sarah, George, Nella and Brendan Chang; Emma Jones and Andrew Munns; Sue, Gav and Iris Massingham; Annette and Tom Warnes; Cathy Wintersgill

We welcome re-joining members: Jean Plowman; Barbara and Richard Winslow

Although we do not want to lose members, those who don't pay their subscription for 2017/18 by autumn 2017 will be removed from our distribution lists. This is so that we can budget more accurately for the future.

Information about events can always be accessed via our web site www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk

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

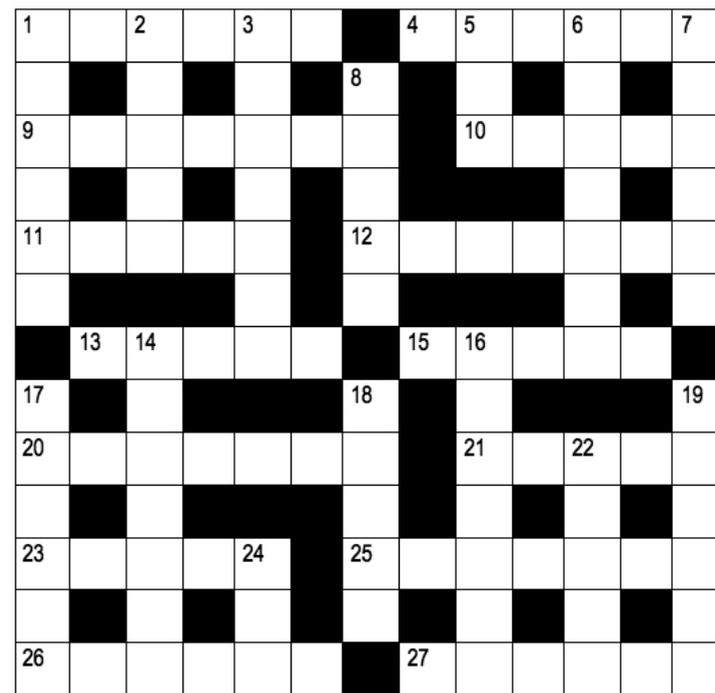
- £7 Family
- £6 Family concession
- £5 Single
- £4 Single concession

Donations are always welcome.



Joan Newman
Friends of Northcliffe Treasurer/
Membership

NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD No. 16



Across

- 1 Adjective relating to fungi (6)
- 4 CAN KIP awakened to reveal a fungus (6 or 3,3)
- 9 RUN VALE to disentangle (7)
- 10 A family of lions (5)
- 11 MEETS changes to pours (5)
- 12 CAN ROCK change to keep going? (5,2)
- 13 See 8 down (5,5)
- 15 LINKS runs around to become the gait of foxes (5)
- 20 Plants from higher places (7)
- 21 Exclude little Joseph for a stringed instrument (5)
- 23 A drill (5)
- 25 RARE MUD stirred to be heard with this (7)
- 26 Not more difficult (6)
- 27 A large snake which crushes its prey (6)

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

Composed by Joan Newman, assisted by Douglas Lumb

Down

- 1 Edible parts of plants (6)
- 2 RUNES translate to a person one could rely on when ill (5)
- 3 One of 14 down who gives advice (7)
- 5 Short sleep (3)
- 6 An egg producer (7)
- 7 A bird does this to keep feathers in order (6)
- 8 (& 13 across) Description of the fruit of a bramble (5,5)
- 14 Folk who supposedly know a lot (7)
- 16 RELY and BIT combine to bring freedom (7)
- 17 The action of some ducks (6)
- 18 Burnt remains or cricket series between UK & Australia [5]
- 19 He gave Northcliffe Woods to Shipley. See also 24 down. (6,3)
- 22 THORN twists to become part of our woods (5)
- 24 See 19 down (3)



Stone benches in Northcliffe

by John Bromley and Martin Love

Readers may recall that in 2015 as part of the Heritage Project we calculated that in 1852 there were approximately 6.4 kilometres of dry stone walling in Northcliffe, assuming that all the boundaries on the map were made of stone.

The quantity of stone needed for these walls would have been some 8000 tonnes. At the present time we estimated that there is only about 12% of the original walling left. It is important to preserve this element of the Northcliffe heritage.

Since June 2014 work has been proceeding to repair parts of the old boundary wall that ran for 1 kilometre roughly from the bottom of Lynton Drive to High Bank Lane along the top of Old Spring Wood. Significant remnants of the old wall exist in about a dozen areas. The repair work is intended to restore part of Northcliffe's built heritage, to improve access between the wood and the meadow, whilst also being mindful of the immediate natural environment.

In 2016, having experienced many times the long haul up the 223 (?) wooden steps from the corner of Avondale Road, we wondered about the possibility of building a stone bench from loose wall stone nearby. At this particular location there is little evidence of the old wall structure except for its foundations. The bench idea was given support by Colin Whitfield of the Council's Woodland Service and by the Committee members of Friends of Northcliffe.



The Chair of the Committee, Steve, in giving a positive response for the project also said: 'The more benches around Northcliffe the better'. How could one disagree if benches encourage visitors to relax, linger a bit longer and enjoy the surroundings of Northcliffe?

After about 14 hours work by both of us over some 4 visits, - digging out stone, setting the foundations and building 3 courses of stone - a few days before this Easter we mortared on 3 seat stones to complete the bench. We wish to thank Suzanne and Ian at NEET for donating the seat stones and for John, Northcliffe Depot manager for providing advice and mortar mix.

A different style of stone bench has also been made set within the wall half-way along the length of the old wall in a very subtle place under an oak tree. When this bench is complete perhaps a prize should be offered for those who find and use it!

Following Steve's clarion call, does anyone have any suggestions of other sites where a stone bench would be an asset and a welcome place for a sit down in Northcliffe.



WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz



(NEARLY) EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GREY SQUIRRELS!

1. Grey squirrels were brought to this country from North America.
2. They always live where there are trees. They can be seen in parks, gardens and woods (and at Northcliffe).
3. Summer nests are flimsy and may be lodged among small branches.
4. Winter nests are made from twigs and may be lined with dry grass, moss and fur. They are lodged close to the tree trunk or even inside a hollow tree.
5. Baby squirrels are called kittens.
6. A grey squirrel can leap more than 6 metres.
7. Grey squirrels eat leaves, buds, fungi, berries and nuts.
8. They cannot survive for long periods without food.

9. Squirrels do not hibernate. They rest and keep warm in their nests during cold, wet, winter weather and curl their bushy tails round their bodies to act as blankets.
10. They especially like acorns, hazelnuts and beech mast, which they bury in the ground in the autumn. On dry winter days they will leave their nests to find their food stores. They find the buried nuts by smell rather than memory.

'My nest is called a drey'



WHAT TIME IS IT?

It's a quarter past summer,
Young squirrels have fun
As they scamper around
In the late summer sun.

But the Clever Old Squirrel
Says they must prepare
For the cold months ahead
When the trees will be bare.

They build snug winter nests
And find acorns galore,
Then they bury the nuts
For a mid-winter store.

Then they'll rest in their nests
Staying cosy and dry,
Neither hungry nor cold
As the storms pass them by.

If the squirrels wake up
On a sunny day,
They will dig up the acorns
They've hidden away.

When it's quarter past winter,
There's rain, hail and snow,
But the squirrels stay snug
As the icy winds blow.

Soon they're all feeling happy,
And birds start to sing.
It's three quarters past winter,
A quarter to spring.

Jeannie Kopasz

SQUIRREL TALES

Below are some brief descriptions of five squirrel stories. Can you name the squirrels which feature in the stories? The names appear below.

1. This squirrel goes ice skating with Hare and Little Grey Rabbit. (Alison Uttley)
2. A naughty squirrel loses his tail! (Beatrix Potter)
3. This squirrel lives in the Green Forest with Shadow and Redtail. (Thornton W Burgess)
4. A squirrel gets into trouble but is helped by a friendly chipmunk. (Beatrix Potter)
5. This squirrel lives in Hopping Wood. (Renee Cloke)

Four of the fictional squirrels are red squirrels. Which one is grey?

ANSWERS:
1. Squirrel 2. Squirrel Nutkin 3. Chatterer
4. Timmy Tiptoes 5. Tuffy
Timmy Tiptoes is the grey squirrel, the others are red.





CONTACT DETAILS:

Chair: Steve Bruzzese

T: 01274 530142 E: stevebruzzese@yahoo.co.uk

Deputy Chair: Guy Barford

T: 01274 584182 E: gandb_barford@yahoo.co.uk

Events: (to be filled)

Promotions: (to be filled)

Conservation Activities: Julia Pearson

T: 01274 590898 E: juliapearson24@googlemail.com

Membership and Treasurer: Joan Newman

T: 01274 583004 E: joanandmartin@tiscali.co.uk

Secretary: Sheila Parkin

T: 01274 594518 E: sheilaparkin@hotmail.co.uk

Newsletter: Liz Hansen

T: 01274 594690 E: lizhansen@btinternet.com

Website: Keith Scott

T: 01274 585694 E: keith@the-scott-family.org.uk

General Enquiries: friendsofnorthcliffe@gmail.com

Website: www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk

Answers to Crossword No. 16

Across:

1 Fungal; 4 Ink cap; 9 Unravel; 10 Pride; 11 Teems; 12 Crack on; 13 Berry (see also 8 down);
15 Slink; 20 Alpines; 21 Banjo; 23 Borer; 25 Eardrum; 26 Easier; 27 Python

Down:

1 Fruits; 2 Nurse; 3 Adviser; 5 Nap; 6 Chicken; 7 Preens; 8 Black (see also 13 across); 14 Experts
16 Liberty; 17 Dabble; 18 Ashes; 19 Norman (see also 24 down); 22 North; 24 Rae (see also 19 down)

Printed by



Design
Phil Morrison