

FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE



Formed in 1990 - 20 years ago



Sir Norman Rae - born 1860 - 150 years ago

Northcliffe News

Anniversary Issue - October 2010

EVENTS

Unless stated please contact Melanie for further information. (All contact details on the back page.)

Friday 15th October and Friday 22nd October. Re-landscaping the pond. Meet at the railway at 10.15, or at the pond. We will be working until about 3pm with BEES volunteers to dig a channel and new areas for deeper water in the pond. The plan is to plant around the edges to limit the amount of open mud. Most of the planting will take place in early spring but we plan to make a start on the 22nd. This will be very muddy work, please dress appropriately.

Sunday 24th October 2pm Fungi and Fruits Woodland Walk

Meet Veronica at the Cliffe Wood Avenue entrance for a free gentle walk around Northcliffe Woods to discover the rich variety of fungi and fruits and enjoy the autumn colours. Veronica Youngson is an extremely knowledgeable local botanist. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Saturday 13th November 10-12 Conservation morning - woodland management

Meet by the bench at the Golf Club entrance. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. For more information contact Julia. More conservation sessions will be arranged early next year.

Thursday 18th November 7.30pm Planning Meeting

At the Kirkgate Community Centre, Kirkgate, Shipley

Please check the website or contact Sheila for details of future meetings.

Members and prospective members are welcome at all the meetings.

Sunday 27th March 1.30pm - 4pm Historical Town Walk

Celebrate the 1st day of Spring with an exclusive guided Historical Town Walk from Roberts Park to Northcliffe Woods with Veronica Youngson. Meet at 1.30pm at the canal bridge in Saltaire (by the Boat House). Starting in Saltaire, we will head through the town of Shipley and learn about the contribution Sir Norman Rae has made to Saltaire, Shipley and Northcliffe. The walk finishes with tea, cakes and biscuits at the community hut in Northcliffe Woods at 4pm. Suitable for all ages. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Saturday 23rd April Northcliffe Easter Festivities

Easter Egg Hunt, orienteering, egg and spoon race, decorate your egg competition, egg throwing competition

May / June (Date to be confirmed) Dawn Chorus walk

Sunday 3rd July Rae Gala

July (date to be confirmed) The Big Lunch at Northcliffe

Saturday 17th September Marie Curie Charity Games and Sports Day

We need your help!

To get involved in any of the above events please contact Melanie.

Chair's Chat

Sorry, not much space for chat this month!

Welcome!

A special welcome to those who have joined the Group recently: Ralph Berry, Alex Bohdanowicz, Graham Charman, Ana Hayrabedian, Libby Ray, Caroline & John Howarth, Cathy Knamiller, David Robison, Lucy Llewelyn, Pam Lofthouse, Sue & Adrian Manning, Maggie & Will Mitchell, Paul Neaves, Eric & Anne Parker, Mr & Mrs M Porter, Joyce Robertshaw, Shipley C of E Primary School, Mrs Jeanette Stevens, Janice Thorp and Linda Twohig.

Communications

Please note that we have changed our website address to www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk instead of .co. This has been done to save costs and to make it easier to run the website. We have also recently added a members' page. If you wish to know the username/password please contact Keith Scott. If we do not already have your email address and you would like to receive occasional short email updates about Northcliffe events, wildlife sightings and news email: friendsofnorthcliffe@taktalk.net

Hugh Firman, Chair

Conservation News

The focus of the practical conservation work in Northcliffe Woods over the summer has been the removal of Himalayan Balsam in the area around the pond. The main work day in June was a collaboration with BEES volunteers (Bradford Environmental Education Service, who run a weekly conservation group). 23 people were involved on the day, mostly working on the bank around the pond. In addition other members of the group concentrated on emptying the silt traps and repairing the revetments where the stream enters the pond. We followed up the work with a couple of evening sessions. These were not so well attended - rain, midges and World Cup semi finals affecting attendance perhaps - but did give the opportunity for an essential second visit to the same patch.

The amount of balsam in the woods is rather overwhelming. However the number of other species still growing amongst it, such as wild angelica, bluebells, wood sorrel and many ferns, provides the motivation to continue the efforts to remove it. Next summer it would be good to organise more work days, perhaps with specific volunteer and business groups.

As we approach the season of woodland work to control the beech saplings we are delighted to have received a Bradford CNet Grassroots grant of £530. The money has been used to buy loppers, bow saws and other tools and health and safety equipment. They will be a great asset in aiding the conservation management in the woods in future years.

The first winter woodland task will be held in November and further mornings will be arranged for early February and mid March. We will also be working to re-landscape the pond to reduce the area of exposed mud by channelling the water and planting around the edges. The Council have started the improvements by beginning to repair the wall. Volunteers will do the digging in October (see diary dates) and planting will be completed in March. This work has been made possible by the support of local Councillors and funding from Shipley Area Committee.

Julia Pearson, Conservation Officer

Congratulations to Melanie Obeney and Steve Bruzzese who tied the knot in Northcliffe Woods on Sunday 8th August 2010

Mr and Mrs Bruzzese had the best day of their lives in Northcliffe and it meant everything to them to have their family and friends to share their special day in this beautiful place. Three Best Men, thirteen Bridesmaids, two Pageboys and Alfie their dog all shared in the glory of the day. The Ceremony was given by Al Dix, an active member of Friends of Northcliffe. Northcliffe was decorated with hay bales for seating and a beautiful arch for their ceremony. Melanie and Steve carried out hand fasting and jumped the broomstick to mark the leap into their new lives together. The happy couple were then led through the woods by an accordion player, followed by the Bridesmaids and their guests up to Northcliffe Golf Club House where their reception was held.



Mr and Mrs Bruzzese would like to give special thanks to Friends of Northcliffe for continuing to conserve this woodland and to the Bradford Model Engineering Society for helping to create their fairy tale wedding and providing train rides for all the wedding guests. This was a truly spectacular day in a truly beautiful setting.

I am sure you will all join us in wishing Melanie and Steve Bruzzese lots of happiness in their new lives together. Mr and Mrs Bruzzese were also featured on the front page and page 3 of the Yorkshire Post - please visit <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/It39s-wooded-bliss-as-happy.6463670.jp>

Rae Gala - Sunday 13th June 2010

150th Birthday of Sir Norman Rae
15th Birthday of Rae Gala

90th Birthday of Northcliffe Opening
20th Birthday of Friends of Northcliffe



400 Roses



Bingley Belly Dancers



400 Roses

A fabulous day was had by all, the 2010 Rae Gala was very busy even when the rain came down. 2010 marked a number of birthday celebrations and this year we extended the Gala and made some surprise additions including live music, boules and the children's activity corner. All who attended would agree that this year's Gala was a huge success and we are very proud of the results, so much so that we are planning to continue the extension in 2011.



There was everything from wildlife to belly dancers and the children loved the coconut shy and the activity corner. As always the Bradford Model Engineering Society provided hours of fun for children, queues of people just waiting to have their turn on the steam trains. Again, Hall Royd Brass Band provided entertainment for us come rain or shine, and we loved to listen with our umbrellas held high. The rain didn't stop the ladies from dancing to the live music either. We all had a fabulous day.



Hall Royd Brass Band



Strid

A large number of people contributed to the success of the Gala by helping to organize it and ensuring it ran smoothly on the day. Others gave up their Sunday to provide the rich variety of entertainment. We would like to thank you, one and all.

We have already started planning next year's Gala. If you know of anyone who can offer children's face painting, street dancing or entertainment or games and activities for adults and children or if you have any other ideas please let me know. It is fun and it is for your local community.

Melanie Bruzzese, Events and Promotions Officer

Northcliffe Nature Notes

As I have been away for most of the summer and am still mostly at Scargill House near Kettlewell, I'm afraid to say I have been neglecting Northcliffe's wildlife. Although, as our garden is becoming wilder and wilder....perhaps neglecting is not the right word.....the wildlife love it, even if it is a tad unkempt!

On a brief visit home, during the summer, Hugh was delighted to see a stoat on the grass below Old Springs Wood, by Avondale Road, just outside Keith's house as it happens. The stoat was doing the most acrobatic dance. Hugh was mesmerised as he watched it.

As I write, the autumn colours are looking superb. The trees are just beginning to turn and I love the mix of greens, oranges, yellows and rusty browns; what a wonderful world we live in!

As I have been travelling to school the last few days I thought the woodlands around Shipley, Baildon and Bingley looked absolutely stunning. In fact today I was rather reluctant to leave; the view from above Moorhead was so glorious. However, I am volunteering at Scargill this week, so I rather reluctantly tore myself away!

Whilst working on the estate at Scargill House we see quite a lot of wildlife too. We have an incredible number of owls. I love to listen to them on an evening, they often lull me to sleep! Rather disconcertingly they were still hooting this morning when I had to get up at 6am in order to get to school for 8am! Anyone who knows me knows I am not a morning person! However, it was a glorious autumnal morning and little wisps of mist, like sheep's wool caught on a fence, were floating in the valley, as I drove along.

We have some local rarities on the estate here which we have been working hard to conserve. The Northern Brown Argus butterfly is a tiny butterfly related to the Blues that we get in Northcliffe. It is rare to find it this far south so we are very honoured to have it on the estate and are doing all we can to improve the habitat for it. Their food plant is the rock rose which is a classic limestone plant and we have lots of it on the estate but these areas are under threat of bracken invasion, so we do a lot of bracken bashing to keep it under control!! You're welcome to join us any time we're here....but I'd better not poach you; Northcliffe needs all the conservation volunteers it can get! Many thanks to Julia for organising all the conservation activities....who needs the gym!

I hope you can get out and enjoy the glorious autumn colours and if you're feeling like some exercise why not try one of our conservation days? I'm sure you'll enjoy it, especially that deep glow of satisfaction from knowing that you have given something back to our wonderful Northcliffe Woods. Norman must be so pleased.

God bless xxx

Lisa Chadwick Firman, Newsletter Editor

PS Jean Plowman recently reported in Peel Park: 'I was walking round the lake, it was dark and stormy, suddenly I saw a flash of electric blue whiz by near the island in the centre of the lake. Yes - a kingfisher. I was totally amazed. I walked round the park and came back to the lake and observed the kingfisher sitting on the pavement edge of the lake. I crept up but it flew off to be joined by another'. Thank you Jean - an exciting discovery. If you have any news or articles you would like including in the next Northcliffe News please send it by 1st January.

Happy Birthday to Us!

Friends of Northcliffe celebrates its 20th birthday in November and we thought it would be interesting to look back at how Friends of Northcliffe came into being. Judith and Alan Marshall are founding members and, although they now live in the Lake District, are still members. Judith provided these recollections.

At the end of June 1990, it became public knowledge that Northcliffe Golf Club had submitted a planning application to extend their car park into Northcliffe Woods. Judith and Alan, with help from their neighbour John Tindale, sprang into action. In July they presented a petition with 440 signatures and Judith addressed the Committee. The application was turned down!

A number of concerned people felt that there should be some kind of watchdog to stop this sort of thing happening again. So it was that a meeting was held on 22nd August to discuss the formation of a 'Northcliffe Preservation Society'. A few days later Judith and Alan attended a meeting of the Heaton Woods Trust. They provided advice and we agreed to work closely with them in the future.

In those early days, Gladys Shuttleworth carried out research about Sir Norman Rae and discovered the background to him giving the land to the people of Shipley in perpetuity as a recreational area (and not a car park!). This led to increasing recognition of the importance of Sir Norman Rae as a local benefactor and the publication of a book (but that's another story!).

On Thursday 18th October, the first meeting of Friends of Northcliffe was held and was attended by three Council officers, establishing the close links that have continued to this day. It is interesting to note that of the ten people who attended that inaugural meeting, four are current members. In addition to Judith and Alan, Jean Kopasz and Marlene Benham (nee Boocock) attended. Now that is commitment! Subjects discussed included tree planting and thinning, steps maintenance, litter bins, benches, bird and bat boxes, a sensory garden, a public questionnaire, pesticide use and the possibility of a horse fair or sheep dog trials! From the outset the aims were to work closely with other bodies (including the Golf Club) to conserve and enhance the area for wildlife and encourage the public to use and appreciate Northcliffe.

So it was that Friends of Northcliffe was born. It has grown and flourished and it leaves its teenage years as a friendly, respected guardian with over 150 members. Here's to the next 20 years!

Hugh Firman (with grateful thanks to Judith Marshall)

CONTACT DETAILS

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If you are not a member of Friends of Northcliffe but are interested in joining please complete the form below and send it with cash or a cheque made payable to Friends of Northcliffe to Joan Newman at 42 Moorhead Crescent, Shipley, W. Yorks BD18 4LQ

Friends of Northcliffe membership form.

Please tick the appropriate boxes

Individuals £4 Family £6 Concessions £3 Family concessions £5
Donation New Renew

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Cheque / cash enclosed for: £

The membership subscription year runs from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011