



FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2013



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter in its new format. Phil Morrison has designed this new look and we hope you all approve. We would be pleased to receive any thoughts/comments you have about the content of the Newsletter and the way it has been produced. Please note that this is a bumper edition because there was a smaller than usual edition in December.

I would love to hear more from our membership about things we could include in the Newsletter – how you use Northcliffe and what you see, what do your children think of the new play area, what you would like to see happen in Northcliffe in the future, etc with photos if you take them. We have a number of stalwart members who contribute on a regular basis but we would really like to hear from other members. Please email any contributions to me lizhansen@btinternet.com with a subject heading Friends Newsletter.

Our annual membership fee is low and you can help keep this low by opting to receive the Newsletter by email. If you wish to receive the Newsletter by email please contact Joan Newman. Details of committee members are on the back page of this Newsletter.

Thank you for your support.

Liz Hansen
Editor



WELCOME

Hi everyone, and a Happy 2013 to you all. We've had a flying start to the year already with a well attended conservation morning and a bird watching extravaganza at the new feeding area. You can read more about these later on in this issue.

We also held an AGM on the 17th January in Shipley Library, but were unable to complete all our business in the time available, due to the public meeting arranged immediately afterwards. We got some great ideas from the meeting, and have also arranged an Extraordinary General Meeting on the 21st March at the Shipley Club to conclude things like elections, budget setting, etc. There is still time, therefore, to get in your nominations if you are interested in becoming more actively involved as a committee member, just email our Secretary Sheila Parkin.

I hope you enjoy the new look and feel to the newsletter – please remember this is a bumper edition, though, after the reduced edition in December. Following editions may not be quite as jam-packed! We are extremely lucky to have the services of Liz Hansen as editor, ably assisted by Phil Morrison with graphic design. With their help, we have adopted a much more contemporary look, and Phil has designed a new logo for Friends of Northcliffe that the committee approved for use earlier this month. We'll be using the old logo along with the new one for about six months, just until people get used to the new identity. It's a great time to say a huge thank you to everyone who was involved in the setting up of the original logo which has served us so well for many years.



Phil has many exciting ideas for things we could do with the new identity, more on this later in the year. Please do let Liz know what you think of the newsletter, and please pass it on to other folk who might appreciate the content (and even become members).

I have an appeal for help from our events committee, who met for the first time this year on Saturday 2nd February. Plans for another exciting and ambitious calendar of events are well in hand, as you can see from the events page in this issue. However, we do need help with the following at the Easter event on Saturday 30th March:

- People who will donate cakes, buns and other goodies.
- A volunteer to help Melanie with the children's activities from 12 until 2.

If you can help, please email melbruzzese@yahoo.co.uk or call 01274 530142.

I've taken some time to reflect on all we have accomplished in the last year. Our most visible success is the fantastic new playground, standing up well to the best efforts of the weather, and drawing in new visitors to Northcliffe. Slightly less visible out of necessity, but no less valuable, is the new bird feeding area. Keith, Joan and Hugh have presided over a fantastic project to help our feathered friends survive the winter, and give people an unrivalled opportunity to see species at close hand. You can read more about this later on, too. We also increased the number of events, and managed to break even despite the often poor attendances caused by the weather. But one family were heard to comment at the Northcliffe Olympics, "We didn't know if you'd still be doing it, but we decided to come and have a look anyway. Now we know you'll always be here, we'll get our waterproofs on every time." Once this word of mouth starts to spread, even more people will turn up.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support, including the folk we collaborated with in 2012 – BMES, NEET, our local Councillors and Bradford Council. We've also seen funding support come from our friends at the Agrah group of restaurants, Playbuilder, WREN, St. Paul's Church, Shipley Area Committee and Bradford Council. Thanks to you all.

Steve Bruzzese, Chair

NEWS IN BRIEF



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014

Subscriptions for the year are due shortly and early payment helps us to plan conservation and events for the year. Currently we have 170 families as members.

An e-mail address enables us to update you about events and other items. 22 members have already opted for e-mail only newsletters – the option is there and would save paper.

Donations are always welcome. If you would like to donate particularly to bird food for our new feeding station, please indicate on the form.

Friends of Northcliffe membership subscriptions:

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

Complete the form at the back of this newsletter and send it with cash or a cheque made payable to Friends of Northcliffe to:
Joan Newman, 42 Moorhead Crescent,
Shipley, West Yorks BD18 4LQ

INVITATION FROM ST PAUL'S CHURCH MEN'S GROUP

All Male Conservation Morning on
Saturday 2nd March 10am – 12 noon.

An invitation has been extended to members of Friends of Northcliffe to join them as they help to restore the ground flora by removing beech saplings and small trees. Tools will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Meet in the Cliffe Wood Avenue car park. For more information please contact Hugh Firman on 01274 594109 or 07712 867610.

FEEDING ROTA & BIRD FOOD

We need volunteers able to make a regular commitment to join a feeding rota.

To feed the birds will cost an estimated £250 each year. If you are able to make a financial contribution or join the rota please call 594109 or email friendsofnorthcliffe@gmail.com

The Northcliffe Bird feeding Area was funded by the Shipley Area Committee and constructed by Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET), led by Steve Warrilow.



CONSERVATION NEWS

By Julia Pearson
Conservation Officer

Following on from a summer of Himalayan balsam pulling we have started the winter task of thinning some of the beech saplings in the wood. So far we have held two well attended and productive Saturday morning sessions working in the area near the golf club steps. The very smallest of the saplings are pulled out by hand; loppers and bow saws are used for the majority of the trees.

The aim is to reduce the dense shade that the beech trees, not native in the north of England, cast. This will allow the oak, rowan and birch saplings to thrive as well as the bluebells. The management plan for the woods identifies the need for majority of the cut timber to remain in the woods, recognising the essential role that deadwood plays in the ecology of a woodland. To ensure the felled trees and brash do not smother the ground flora they are cut and stacked into 'habitat piles', for the benefit of small mammals and invertebrates. They will gradually rot down into the woodland floor.

Dead and decaying trees and branches are a vital part of a properly functioning woodland ecosystem. Not only do they play a key role in sustaining biodiversity but they also aid soil fertility and healthy functioning of streams and rivers. Up to twenty percent of woodland species are reliant on deadwood for all or part of their life cycle, emphasising its role in supporting biodiversity.



As you walk through the woods you will see several types of deadwood, all of which we should recognise as a positive sign of a woodland supporting a range of woodland species. Standing dead trees provide food (insects) and nesting holes for woodpeckers and nuthatches. Veteran trees have areas of rot, holes in branches and crevices in the bark where birds can nest and bats roost. Some trees may have been uprooted in high winds, other fallen timber occurs when branches break and fall. Mosses, liverworts and fungi will colonise this fallen timber and other dead stumps. Many species of invertebrates rely on the dead wood.

The estimate for a woodland of high ecological value for deadwood habitat is that more than 20% of the total tree stems are dead or contain some decaying wood. The UK Forestry Standard encourages any woodland with less than 10% deadwood stems to be managed to increase the amount of deadwood.

Whilst historically significant amounts of deadwood were systematically removed from woods, either as a product or just to 'tidy up', foresters now understand the benefits of allowing deadwood to remain in the woodland. Management decisions about deadwood in a woodland are made in the context of safety, recreation, timber and firewood.

The first two themes are the prime concerns in Northcliffe as there is no intention to manage the woods for timber, except for small amounts being used in construction projects in the woods and for use to make small amounts of charcoal by conservation volunteers.



HOW IT USED TO BE:

By Ann Dalton

Seventy years ago Northcliffe woods and playing fields were already a well-established amenity, with Spring Wood on its northern fringe. In those days Avondale Road stopped at the junction with Lindisfarne Road, but soon convoys of hump backed dustcarts brought hard-core and ashes, gradually transforming the little stream filled valley between Trenance Drive and Spring Wood into a long flat gritty area on which our first wondrous post war bonfire blazed and lads created a speedway track for their bikes, until the extension of Avondale Road met the extended Grosvenor Road.

A row of stone cottages at the bottom of High Bank Lane were demolished and the field behind them, which yielded annual harvests of newts and tadpoles from the swampy middle, was drained and Avondale road joined Moorhead Lane. High Bank had been a steep, narrow, walled lane with very little traffic, but was widened and reshaped into the gear-crunching snake we now use.

Spring Woods and Northcliffe Woods were separated from the playing fields by dry stone walls, punctuated by gaps to walk through or steps to climb over. Mysteriously most of the stones from Spring Woods' walls disappeared, transported piece meal to create features in many local gardens. A few remnants of the top walls remain, but all the stones from Northcliffe walls were officially removed in the 1950s.

A wonderfully tall slide, from which children occasionally plummeted to a variety of injuries.

PLAY AREAS

A wonderfully tall slide, from which children occasionally plummeted to a variety of injuries, and two sets of swings into which one could crash dramatically when sledging, stood at the bottom of the hill near High Bank. Up near the pavilion, by a new little drinking fountain, crumbly tarmac surrounding two more sets of swings grazed knees, and a wooden roundabout produced splinter and occasionally trapped an unwary foot.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments abutting gardens in Linton Drive were bulldozed, but the remaining two sites flourish. In the past two decades a wildlife garden was painstakingly created out of derelict allotments, but its future is now uncertain. Northcliffe Nurseries has developed, through skills of adults with learning difficulties and their leaders, into a thriving enterprise.

EVENTS

In the 1950s occasional sheepdog trials were held on the fields, and a horse fair arrived in June each year.



There were no trees then bordering the asphalt paths, but plenty of seats, with wooden benches in the woods and on the grass.

WOODLAND WALKS

After the war few people had dogs to walk in the woods but the playing fields were well used for picnics and games. Sundays often involved the dubious pleasure of being picked up from Sunday School and having to walk over Northcliffe in one's best coat and sandals with parents out for a stroll. There were no trees then bordering the asphalt paths, but plenty of seats, with wooden benches in the woods and on the grass.

Saplings imperceptibly grew, paths became overgrown and new ones trodden, youths with air rifles admonished, copses created and bulbs planted, trees fell and rotted. The pond silted up and was resurrected. The stream tamed by gabions and a culvert, though it bored its way under the designated bed and often disappears in dry weather for a few yards in defiance of authority. Steps have been concreted so we can boldly go up slope and down, and signposts erected announcing "Woodland Walk", lest anyone should wonder what a path in the woods could possibly be.

PLANTS

Bluebells bring the sky to earth each spring, contrasting with clouds of white garlic. A nodding carpet of wood anemones in the 'out-of-bounds' but closely mown area of the golf course has been almost exterminated, though small pockets remain where no mower can reach. Himalayan balsam arrived sometime and decided to stay. Each year we beat patches into submission in many working parties and each year it rises triumphant and extends its borders, but the bees like it.



Bluebells bring the sky to earth each spring, contrasting with clouds of white garlic.

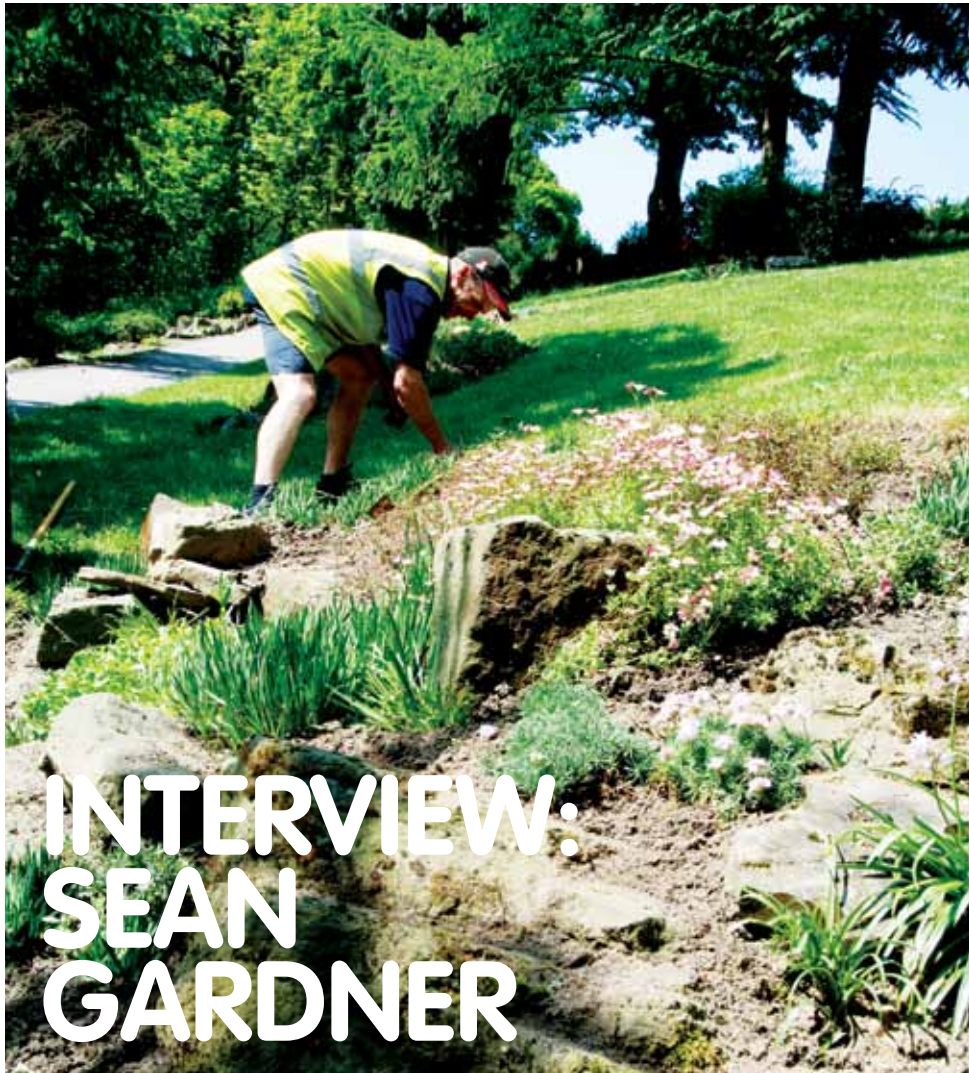


THANKS

For the past twenty plus years the Rae Gala has introduced people to the park. Since Northcliffe was given to the town for the people from Shipley it has always been here, somewhere to walk, sit, dream, cry, canoodle, feel refreshed and inspired. For newcomers it's a place to discover with delight. Thanks to Sir Norman H Rae for his foresight and generosity.

Thanks to Gladys Shuttleworth and her team who realised it could be threatened and needed guarding, thanks to the people who now have it in their care, and for the people still to come who will love and cherish it far into the future and create their own memories of this lovely place.





INTERVIEW: SEAN GARDNER

A big thank you to Sean Gardner who has helped us with our events for many years.

Melanie spoke to Sean recently and below is a glimpse into the work that Sean does during his working day with the Authority's Parks and Landscapes department.



"I have worked for CBMDC (City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council) Parks and Landscapes for ten years at Northcliffe park as a "Chargehand Gardener". My favourite part of the job is simply working outside; being outdoors, whatever the weather, it is harsh at times but I consider myself lucky to be in touch with the environments, meeting people who are enjoying the places I help to look after. The main place is Northcliffe Park, which I have known since childhood, a park which has open fields, woodland, sports facilities, a railway, allotments etc yet does not feel cluttered, can be enjoyed as you wish.

"I do enjoy the freedom of my job; it gives me a chance to be creative. Have you noticed my attempt at topiary? A caterpillar at the bottom of sloped path near the rockery, and this year we have had more involvement in the design of some flower beds. My next project is to restore the bottom rockery – ideas welcome maybe a butterfly will go with the caterpillar?"

"I have helped with the events in Northcliffe park for about 4 years, the main event the Rae Gala, what a great day! Lots of friendly people enjoying themselves in a healthy, cosy feeling space, surrounded by trees, music playing, steam trains, tea and scones, the ferrets, the donkeys etc, it is all great, it helps bring the community together and I am grateful to be a part of running things. I enjoy helping the people who come along and enjoy our work in the park, and it is good to see the respect for Northcliffe Park – some parks are not as loved.





"I would like to see more restoration and the bringing of other areas of the park back to life."

"In Northcliffe Park I would like to see more restoration and the bringing of other areas of the park back to life. The new play area – I admit at first I was unsure of its location and other issues but I was wrong, it blends in, is sympathetic to its surroundings and the tree house slide is art – yes more art in the park please, wood carvings maybe?

"My favourite area in the park, from a work point of view, is the wood's entrance; it's a main gateway into the park yet not as formal as the main drive, many gardening things going on, rose beds, rockery, formal hedges that look inviting with the back drop of the wood. Myself, I like the whole park and its variety.

"Friends of Northcliffe have helped bring an appreciation of Northcliffe Park; helped create new spaces of value; have an understanding of other park users and care about the place we share; and for me have built good communications with the council and other groups active in the park.

"I would like to see Friends of Northcliffe help bring the buildings in Northcliffe back to life – to use them again, help stop the rot and broken window syndrome, one attracts another.

"The staff at Northcliffe Park Depot is responsible for the park and its day to day running which include its monthly and annual maintenance schedules alongside our other sites which spread as far Burley in Wharfedale."

We look forward to many more years of Sean supporting us with our events.



The new Northcliffe Bird Feeding Area is now well and truly open for business

By Hugh Firman

The new Northcliffe Bird Feeding Area, which lies adjacent to Northcliffe Woods between the two sets of allotments, is now well and truly open for business.

On 27th January we took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch together with the RSPB Airedale and Bradford Local Group. Over 70 adults and children came along and the bird feeding area was very popular. Altogether, ten different bird species were seen with highlights being a nuthatch and 13 goldfinches. The bird counts will be collated and sent to the RSPB. The Northcliffe Allotments Society (NAS) Club House, kindly provided by NAS, was crammed with people buying birdfeed, learning more about birds and drinking tea and coffee. My thanks go to all who helped make the day such a success.



The complete list of birds seen so far is wood pigeon, dunnock, robin, blackbird, song thrush, long tailed tit, coal tit, blue tit, great tit, nuthatch, jay, magpie, carrion crow, chaffinch, goldfinch and redpoll. In addition, the following birds have been seen flying over: pink footed goose, Canada goose, black headed gull, common gull, lesser black backed gull and great spotted woodpecker. Mammals have also joined in with brown rat and grey squirrel regular visitors. However, the mammal highlight was a fox, which Chris spotted feeding in the snow. Please let us know if you see other birds and wildlife.



What does Northcliffe mean to...

The Trinder family

By Nick Trinder



“What does Northcliffe mean to the Trinder family?” I was asked by Liz Hansen to explain, so here goes:

I visit Northcliffe most days. Usually I’m accompanied, albeit loosely at times, by our particularly energetic family dog Cocoa. Both Cocoa and I enjoy the wonderful space that Northcliffe has to offer on our daily walks and especially appreciate the fact that dogs are permitted off lead. At week-ends it’s usually easy to persuade my kids, James and Phoebe, to join Cocoa and I for a walk with the mention of the words ‘play area’ – a much-loved addition which gives Northcliffe the distinct edge over other possible local walking venues in their eyes!

When not walking, I can often be spotted getting even muddier whilst running around Northcliffe, again often with Cocoa leading the way. Northcliffe has also played host to various school cross-country races that James has taken part in.



“I was inspired by such train rides so much that I built an outdoor railway track in our garden at home for the kids (and myself of course) to enjoy.”

Running brought James and myself unexpected ‘Olympic glory’ at last summer’s Northcliffe Olympic Games – a fantastically fun day that was really well organised but sadly, probably due to the rainy weather, not very well attended. Ah well, all the more medals for ‘Team Trinder’ and plenty of opportunity for James and me to perfect our Mo Farah/Usain Bolt poses!

When the kids were a bit younger I confess to having enjoyed many a train ride around the model engineering society’s track at Northcliffe – clutching onto a toddler as we ‘steamed’ around the bends. Indeed, I was inspired by such train rides so much that I built an outdoor railway track in our garden at home for the kids (and myself of course) to enjoy. Although our garden is generous, I soon realised that it was nowhere near big enough for a ride-on train such as Northcliffe boasts but settled for a G-scale model railway instead (complete with Thomas the tank engine!).

As James and Phoebe will testify, Northcliffe also means to me a place to meet and chat with people, especially the regular dog-walking community. I’m often abandoned in favour of the play area by the kids if guilty of chatting for too long so I hereby apologise for any abruptly-ending conversations with such good people!

My wife, Tricia, who has known Northcliffe since childhood (I won’t specify exactly how many years ago!), adds that she can remember the old play area up near the golf clubhouse which featured a frightening massive slide. Sounds fun to the rest of us – you can bring that one back!

P.S. When asked for her views on what Northcliffe means to her, Cocoa was heard to reply: “SQUIRREL!..... POINT!.....I HATE SQUIRRELS!”



NORTHCLIFFE NATURE NOTES

By Lisa Chadwick



Happy New Year to you all! As I write this it is a very cold January 14th! I'm thawing out by the fire with a warm cup of tea in one hand and delicious Christmas cake in the other following my first expedition of the year up the hill and to Northcliffe Woods.

I enjoyed watching the sunset for so long that I am now frozen but it was worth it! The contrast between the glorious reds and orange of the sunset and the silhouette of the snow covered trees and hills with the snow on the ground were just amazing! I hope you too will be able to brave the cold and get out and enjoy Northcliffe in the winter.

Sunday 13th of January was our first really sunny day of the year. It was a glorious spring day and it was lovely to see so many people out enjoying Northcliffe. The snowdrops in our garden enjoyed it too and are now starting to look lovely. They are so brave and such a cheering sight. I always feel so much better for seeing them. Spring is definitely on the way.

I really love to get out on the clear frosty days of winter and early spring, especially as the days get longer. I like to watch everyone sledging on Northcliffe hill when we get a snow fall, though these days I'm not brave enough to join them... well not on purpose anyway! The trees look beautiful in winter and I really enjoy their silhouettes against the sharp winter skies. We often hear skeins of geese flying over at this time of year too. One misty Day in November I saw several large skeins fly overhead – several hundred geese. It's such an atmospheric sight! Both foxes and owls pair up and breed very early and we often hear the foxes barking on a night in January and the owls hooting to set up territories and find a mate. Hearing their calls on the dark winter nights makes it feel like we live in the country.



I'm sure you all know this, but please remember to feed your garden birds in the cold weather – they really depend on it. We have a growing flock of long tailed tits coming to our feeders, 14 at the last count. They are the cutest of birds, so tiny. House sparrows are seriously in decline and much in need of our help. I love their cheeky chirping; it would be a great loss if we no longer had them in our gardens. Starlings too; we have an over-wintering flock in the trees at the bottom of the garden. They were singing and chatting away to each other one very grey day in early January and they really cheered me up. As we have been away so much the last few years, our garden is even more over grown than ever, however, the wildlife loves it and the birds do love the cover – I try not to worry too much! Our pond at the bottom of the garden is very full after all this rain! By the time you receive this newsletter the frogs should be calling and getting together to make frogspawn; funnily enough, I so often hear them, for the first time, around Valentine's day! Ahhh you never knew frogs were so romantic, did you!?

We have had an incredible number of jays this year, and they are growing increasingly tame. I have seen them as far as Springhurst Road, which is a lot further away from the woods than they would have ventured before. Jays are notoriously shy birds, although our jays have clearly not read the books! I love it when wildlife defies man's efforts to define it! They are one of my favourite birds, so I am really pleased to see more of them in our local patch and the garden. (We have them in the gardens at Kendal Avenue as well – a lot further away from the woods. Anybody any further away from woods got Jays in their gardens? – Editor)





As you will have read elsewhere we have built a new bird feeding area in Northcliffe Woods between the two sets of allotments, amongst the trees that Friends' of Northcliffe planted about 20 years ago. We were concerned that with Carl no longer being on his allotment and feeding the birds we should continue to feed them in his absence; we felt that this would be a nice area for the public to get close to them also. So far the birds have expressed their approval and are happily eating their way through quite a lot of seed and peanuts! Hopefully you will be able to pop up there and enjoy them too.

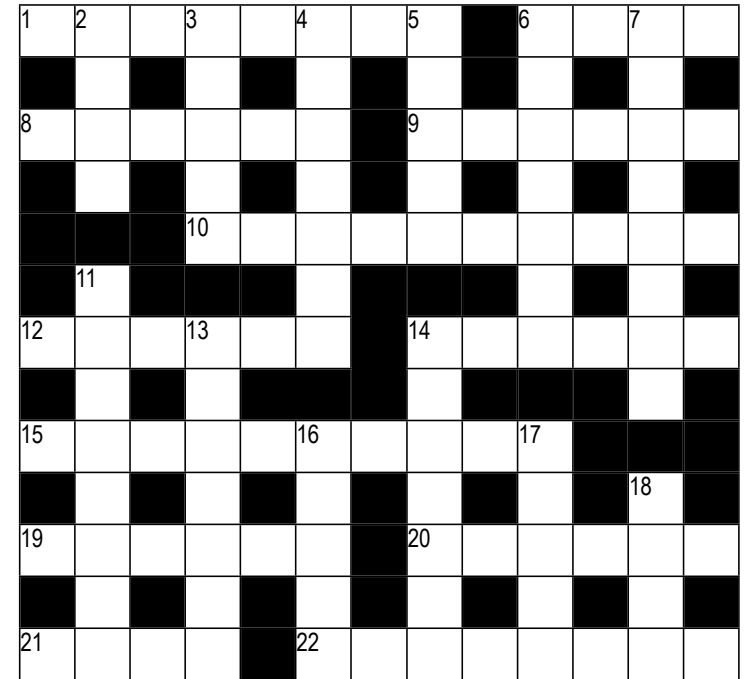
Here's to some fantastic Northcliffe wildlife and walks in 2013. I hope you are able to get out and enjoy it.

If you would rather wait until the weather warms up a little, maybe you will be able to join Hugh and me on our dawn chorus walk on May 4th – see the events list for details. It is an early start and believe me, I am no lark, but it is well worth making the effort once a year!

The birdsong is tremendous at that time of day and we often see a fox or deer too. We then enjoy a flask of tea and breakfast by the picnic bench on top of the hill, just as the sun is rising! It's well worth getting out of bed for.

May I take this opportunity to wish our good friend, neighbour and FoN member Mohammed, a speedy recovery from his heart by-pass operation. We look forward immensely to taking him and the boys bat and owl watching again very soon.

NORTHCLIFFE CROSSWORD No. 3



Across

1. Use this for support when climbing the steps at the west end of the woods (8) or (4,4)
6. Paws move around into a painful nest builder (4)
8. I start altering to a painter (6)
9. Arboreal pub is road junction near the east end of the playing fields (6)
10. When most of the leaves have fallen (4,6)
12. A long man-made hole, associated with 1914/1918 (6)
14. Strata, fastened down plant shoots, or hens (6)
15. Flits right, changing to dawn (5,5)
19. Suspended seats (6)
20. Recent mixture is in the middle (6)
21. Colourings which sound terminal (4)
22. Chosen from asset-led distracted words (8)

Down

2. Area of a rectangular field measuring one chain x one furlong (4)
3. Boring tool, military routine, furrow (5)
4. Tummy pain, in time saves nine (1,6)
5. 7th star sign (5)
6. Ridge on flesh starts to be rich (7)
7. Tree found in Northcliffe woods (7)
11. Unusual form of transport to find in a wood (1,7)
13. What is heard if the birds leave (2,5)
14. Severed part of a tree starts to be rational (7)
16. Does not win when soles turn (5)
17. Change into Roman hundred for a pick-me-up (5)
18. At liberty for no charge (4)

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

Composed by Douglas Lumb and Joan Newman



Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and Rae Gala 2012

By Mel Bruzese

2012 was set to be a fabulous year for events in Northcliffe, celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics.



It was the British weather, causing so many cancelled events across the UK that led us to St Pauls Church for cream teas rather than soggy scones in Northcliffe on the day of the last minute cancelled Big Diamond Jubilee Lunch. All considered we were amazed at the turn out for our combined event in July.

All of our entertainers, musicians and volunteers supported us and changed their diaries to ensure the local community still enjoyed the celebrations come rain or shine on our Gala day. A big thank you to everyone who helped to create a wonderful atmosphere filled with music, laughter and entertainment.

The Broken Hearts Club Band put on a spectacular performance throughout the event, getting children and adults tapping their feet and jiggling along to their beat. Their latest album was released in the summer last year – visit them on Facebook.

Rainbow Morris and Kitchen Taps both looked bright and dashing against the grey skies, putting on a great show for the public to enjoy.

A big thank you to both dancing parties for changing their dates last minute and ensuring the public were entertained both visually and musically.



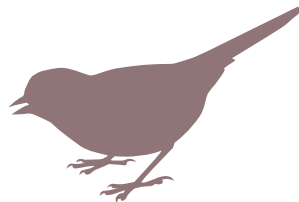
Whiter Than and Strid put on a fabulous open mic where we had a variety of singer songwriters, bands and musicians playing from noon 'til 5. Check out the open mic at the Gumption in Bradford. Paul Wrigley entertained many children and families with his drum circle and Jenny Biglands organised a children's music circle where her music pupils performed spectacularly in front of a live audience, picking up their awards as they played.

A special thank you to everyone who gave up their time to run stalls on the day, BMES for providing railway rides, Hall Royd Brass Band, Gill for face painting, musicians, ferret racing, dancing, wonderful stories, dens, drumming, games, activities, fitness, information, donkey rides, food, cakes and sweets. We would also like to thank all those who volunteered on the day to shake buckets and raise money to put back into the local community.



WOODY'S SPOT for younger friends

By Jeannie Kopasz



FEED THE BIRDS HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW BIRD FEEDING STATION AT NORTHCLIFFE?

If you walk along the track between the allotments and the woods you will see it in a clearing between the two allotment sites. Winter is a hard time for birds. They need food to keep warm but their natural food is in short supply. This is when we can help them most by making extra food available.

Simple bird feeders can easily be made from clean plastic cups* or milk cartons. Knot lengths of thick string and thread through the base of a cup or through the top of a carton and suspend from tree branches in your garden. The best food to use in this sort of feeder is Bird Cake which you can enjoy making following the tips below.

As it is made with melted fat always remember to ask permission at home as you may need some help!

*Plastic cups or pots can be made more 'grippy' and less conspicuous (and therefore more 'bird friendly') by covering them with wool. Choose brown, grey or green wool if possible. First, use your hands to smear lots of PVA glue all over the outside of the pot (very messy!) and then wind thick wool closely round and round to cover. Make sure the ends are well stuck down and then leave the pot to dry thoroughly before filling with Bird Cake.

BIRD CAKE

In a large bowl mix together some of the food which birds like best.

Use any of the following;

- Bread crumbs or cake crumbs
- Crushed nuts
- Millet, maize or sunflower seeds
- Uncooked porridge oats or fine oatmeal
- Grated or crumbled cheese
- Fresh coconut
- Dried fruit such as raisins, currants or sultanas
- Cold cooked potato
- Cooked white or brown rice

(Please don't use salted peanuts or crisps, desiccated coconut, spicy or highly seasoned food, cooked porridge oats or margarine.)

Pour melted lard or suet into the bowl and mix well. Fill your feeders or clean coconut shells with this yummy mixture and leave in a cool place to set.

Alternatively, leave the mixture to set in muffin tins. Then use the 'bird buns' on your garden bird table or hang the feeders in the garden and give the birds a party!

DINNER IS SERVED...

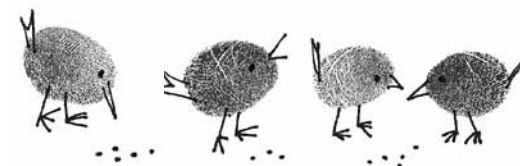
In each set of letters below can you find the name of a bird and a food which it may enjoy? Although the letters are muddled they all come in the correct order.

S U W E R E N T
S C O T A C R O L I N N G U T
R O C H E B E S I N E
B L A R A C K I S B I R I N D S
B L U P E E T I A N T U T S

Find the answers at the bottom of this page.

FINGERPRINT BIRDS

Have fun making bird pictures from fingerprints.



Press your finger on to an ink or paint pad and make prints on paper. Now use a fine tipped pen to add legs, beaks and eyes.



Answers:
1. SUET WREN 2. STARLING COCONUT
3. ROBIN CHEESE 4. BLACKBIRD RAISINS
5. BLUETIT PEANUTS



NORTHCLIFFE OLYMPICS 2012

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We had planned a spectacular Olympic day to suit families with children of all ages. We had bean bag throwing, egg racing, family races, 3 legged race, sack racing, as well as races for adults and children on the top field. We were rather optimistic having the ice cream van there, and as the rain fell, the ice cream van disappeared. But for the hardy, the rain didn't stop them winning their gold, silver and bronze Northcliffe olympic medals.

What a fantastic day, despite the rain, with activities supported and run by Bingley Harriers. We are proud to say that we continued, through the rain, ignoring the pessimists, and brought great pleasure and fun to the families and supporters there on the day.

A Big thank you to Bingley Harriers. Don't forget you can join in with Tony and the Harriers every Saturday morning at Lister park or visit www.bingleyharriers.co.uk

Due to feedback and popular demand, we will be running sports events in the future. Keep an eye out on the events page in the next newsletter for more exciting events later in 2013.

Thank you once gain to BMES for running the miniature railway at all of our events. Thank you also to our volunteers for providing fun and entertainment on the day. Most of all a big thank you to the local community and members for continuing to come and enjoy the woodland and recreation areas in Northcliffe; without you, none of our events could happen.

EVENTS

**Sunday 24th February
10.15am to noon**

Historical walk through Northcliffe

Tony will lead the walk pointing out sites of some of the known pits and fire clay works. He will tell you about some of the owners from the late 19th Century and enable you to contribute your own knowledge. Not suitable for young children. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

**Saturday 30th March
12.00pm to 3.00pm**

Northcliffe Easter Festivities

In conjunction with BMES - Easter Bunny picnic, Easter Egg Hunt, orienteering, egg and spoon race, decorate your egg competition, egg throwing competition.

**Saturday 4th May
4.45am**

Dawn Chorus walk

Enjoy the wonders of the English dawn chorus with Hugh and Lisa. Meet just inside the woods at the end of Lynton Drive for a one hour stroll through Old Spring Woods admiring the bluebells and listening to the bird song. So as not to disturb residents please do not drive up Lynton Drive. Parking is extremely limited, especially at 4.45am! Bring a flask and breakfast bun unless you want to rush back to bed!

**Sunday 12th May
2.00pm**

Birds and Bluebells in Northcliffe Woods

A gentle walk with Lisa and Hugh admiring the wonderful displays of bluebells and other Spring flowers and looking and listening for woodland birds. Meet at the Cliffe Wood Avenue entrance.

**Sunday 2nd June
1.00pm to 3.30pm**

The Big Lunch

Join us in another national event, weather permitting. Bring your lunches and picnic blankets to the model railway and we will provide a varied programme of entertainment for you and your families to enjoy. Meet by the miniature railway.

**Wednesday 12th June
7.00pm**

Himalayan Balsam Pulling

We will start the summer's task to reduce the Himalayan Balsam in the woods. We will meet at the model railway but the focus of our work will be in the zone between the pond, top path by the golf course and the steps leading up to this path. Please wear suitable footwear for working on the hillside. Gloves will be provided.

**Sunday 30th June
2pm to 4.30pm**

The Rae Gala

To continue our most popular event we are providing a fun packed programme for the local community by the miniature railway. Details of guest performers and artists on the day will be released soon.





FRIENDS OF NORTHCLIFFE

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Answers to Crossword no 3

**Across: 1 Handrail, 6 Wasp, 8 Artist, 9 Branch,
10 Late autumn, 12 Trench, 14 Layers, 15 First light,
19 Swings, 20 Centre, 21 Dyes, 22 Selected**

**Down: 2 Acre, 3 Drill, 4 A stitch, 5 Libra,
6 Wealthy, 7 Sycamore, 11 A railway, 13 No songs,
14 Logical, 16 Loses, 17 Tonic, 18 Free**

**Design
Phil Morrison**